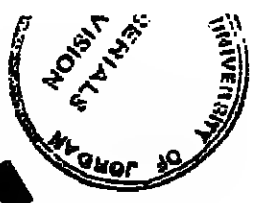


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Mideast Peace Talks Take a Step Forward In 'Breakthrough,' Israel and PLO Set Date for New Pact on Self-Rule

By Clyde Haberman
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization injected new life into their peace talks Thursday, setting a July 1 target date for an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule.

As part of this more hopeful spirit, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, promised to crack down on Islamic radicals who attack Israelis, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel announced several measures intended to make life easier for Palestinians.

They include a loosening of border restrictions that have kept tens of thousands of West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs from working in Israel.

Emerging from a meeting with Mr. Arafat at Gaza's northern edge, Mr. Peres described the discussions Thursday as a "breakthrough." The Palestinian leader was more cautious, though, saying, "We have to wait and see" if a long deadlock in negotiations had truly been broken.

Both sides were aware that setting a target date and sticking to it are two different things.

And even if they meet their timetable, which calls for an agreement to be reached in the second half of June, they will still have to fix a schedule for its major elements: Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza and a companion redeployment of Israeli soldiers, both of which were to have taken place last July.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel has insisted repeatedly that there are "no sacred dates" in talks with the PLO. Aides said Thursday night that his position had not changed, and Mr. Rabin himself called the July target date "a test to both sides."

Nevertheless, by setting a date, Israel and the PLO signaled a desire to push themselves out of the stalemate that has been by negotiating delays and Palestinian suicide bombings that have killed dozens of Israelis in recent months.

The talks were more than just stagnant. In some respects, they were going backwards, with a revival of mistrust and mutual recriminations.

Those problems have hardly disappeared. Israelis continue to have security fears, and Palestinians question Israel's commitment to extending their self-rule beyond Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho.

But if nothing else, the Arafat-Peres meeting was a positive step.

It was welcomed as such by Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, who arrived here Thursday in his latest effort to narrow differences between Israel and the Arabs, including Syria, whose separate peace talks with the Israelis have been bogged down for months.

"Both the Palestinians and the Israelis are now seeking to meet each other's needs," Mr. Christopher said, "and unquestionably that's the issue, that's the dilemma for both of them."

Earlier, in Cairo, Mr. Christopher failed in talks with President Hosni to settle a dispute between Israel and Egypt over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. (Page 10)

As a rhetorical flourish, part of an effort to show that the mood had changed, Mr. Peres referred to Mr. Arafat several times as *rais*, an Arabic word usually translated as "president."

Normally, Israeli officials call him "Mr. Chairman," his formal PLO title. But Mr. Arafat prefers *rais*, to underline his intention to lead an independent Palestinian state one day. Smiling broadly, he thanked Mr. Peres.

"This is the first time he calls me president," he said.

To deal with Israel's security concerns, Mr. Arafat said that his self-rule government in Gaza would "not hesitate in confronting those who are carrying out acts of violence and try them before special courts." He also said that Gazans would need licenses to carry guns.

But while Mr. Peres praised the Palestinian leader for having stated his position in a very detailed way, he and other Israeli officials said that what was at stake was the follow-through.

It was not the first time that Mr. Arafat had made such promises, the officials noted. Yet Gaza remains awash in guns and militias opposed to talks with Israel.

For its part, Israel agreed to ease border restrictions that have kept Palestinians cooped up since a suicide bombing that killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22.



Queen Elizabeth II speaking to construction workers Thursday at a bridge she dedicated during a visit to Belfast.

Sinn Fein Gives Concession on IRA Arms

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — In a major concession to British demands, Gerry Adams, the political leader of the Irish Republican Army, said Thursday that Sinn Fein would agree to discuss the crucial issue of IRA disarmament with Britain.

Mr. Adams' concession gained for him the approval of the White House on Thursday to collect funds during a visit to the United States he begins on Sunday, despite strong objections from the British government.

Mr. Clinton has also invited Mr. Adams to attend a St. Patrick's Day reception at

the White House that will mark the first encounter ever between an American president and the Sinn Fein leader.

Until last year, the United States had maintained a generation-long ban on official contacts with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. And even in ending that prohibition after the IRA declared a ceasefire in Northern Ireland, Mr. Clinton had deferred to British sensitivities by barring Mr. Adams from raising money in the United States.

That the president would lift that barrier now came despite powerful objections from British officials, and it prompted bitter complaints in London, where aides to Prime Minister John Major suggested

that the step would inject new friction into British-American relations.

In a statement issued Thursday afternoon, the British Embassy in Washington said only that decisions about Mr. Adams' status were "for the United States government to take." But the embassy went on to express pointed concern about the activities undertaken even recently by the IRA, which it contended was "still recruiting, targeting, training, intimidating and taking the law into its own hands" in its battle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

As the politics roiled in Dublin, London

See IRELAND, Page 10.

Candidates in France Shift Debate Away From Europe

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In sharp contrast to French elections in recent years, the current presidential race conspicuously lacks any debate about French ideas on Europe's future.

With the withdrawal of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the three main undeclared candidates — all highly committed to European construction — have given the lack of voter interest in a more integrated Europe as their main reason for declining to run.

A stronger European Union has long been a touchstone of France's international

solve its problems as part of a larger power in which Paris plays a leading role.

A broad explanation of this new mood has been provided by Emmanuel Todd, a sociologist, who says that the lines of division in French society have shifted fundamentally.

Instead of the old left-right cleavages, he sees France as a society split between people who have the means to be confident about the future and a growing majority frightened at the risk of being left out of jobs, good education and even fair treatment in courts.

These views, which influenced Mr. Chirac's campaign strategy, help explain a trend for the country toward becoming more inward-looking and more averse to taking risks. The mood is fueled by a climate of fear stemming from years of high unemployment and, some analysts said, because of the attitudes of an aging population resistant to risky initiatives.

Explanations by all three national figures who decided not to run evoked this feeling of national fragility: first Jacques Delors, the former head of the European Commission, and now this week Raymond Barre, a former prime minister, and Mr. Giscard d'Estaing.

Their version is partly self-serving and fits into a growing pattern among French politicians to blame public apathy and political gridlock for what is in reality a lack of leadership, said Pierre Rosenvalon, head of the Paris-based St. Simon Foundation.

In addition, all three noncandidates were rationalizing their failure to develop a solid power base among the French political parties. Mr. Delors, the most credible

See FRANCE, Page 10



GROZNY LIFE — A boy pushing belongings in Chechnya as Russian soldiers watched. Russia yielded on rights observers in Chechnya. Page 2.

Refugees Fled Camps, Cuba Says

HAVANA (Reuters) — More than 1,000 Cuban refugees have escaped detention at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay and have made their way home over minefields or by swimming to Cuban territory, a Cuban official said Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Luis Delfino, also said that more than 400 people had returned to Cuba officially — coming on flights organized by the United States after their homecoming had been approved by Cuba.

More than 25,000 Cubans are being held at Guantanamo Bay, on the southeast tip of Cuba.

In August and September, thousands of Cubans trying to escape the Communist nation were sent to camps after the United States reversed a policy of granting asylum to virtually all Cubans.

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Foreign Aid Redefined

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Dollar Traders Await Action, Not Words, as Reassurance

Markets Don't Respond
To Treasury Secretary's
Pep Talk on Currency

By Lawrence Malkin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin tried talking up the dollar again Thursday but failed. Traders demanded something more solid before betting real money that the dollar would rise, and new rumors about Mexico also worked to hold it down.

In a speech to newspaper publishers, Mr. Rubin told the currency markets what they wanted to hear and said in more direct terms than those in which the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, expressed his concern Wednesday in congressional testimony.

"A strong dollar is in the self-interest of the United States," Mr. Rubin said. "This administration is fully committed to sound fiscal and monetary policies for sustained growth, low inflation, a strong and stable dollar, and maintenance of the dollar as the world's principal reserve currency."

He added that the Treasury and the Fed consulted with each other and with their counterparts in the Group of Seven industrial countries, but it was the lack of any concrete action after those consultations that kept markets anxious. What dealers wanted but were unlikely to get was a rise in U.S. rates and a cut in German rates.

"I don't think they will do anything at all, because it is not in their national interest to do so," said Andrew Brimmer, a former Fed governor and Washington economic consultant, referring to both countries.

The dollar blipped up briefly after Mr. Rubin's remarks early in the U.S. trading session, but settled back and closed at 1.4010 Deutsche marks, up only slightly from 1.3950 DM. The dollar had also slipped to 90.90 yen from 91.40 yen.

In Europe, the dollar had climbed about 2 pence and 1 yen before retreating after rumors spread through the market that Mexico might suspend convertibility of the peso. The central bank of Mexico denied the rumors as "totally false," but traders feared the United States would be drawn in more deeply into rescuing Mexico, limiting its ability to defend the dollar.

Despite official efforts to make traders concentrate on economic fundamentals, all evidence pointed to a market consumed by its own momentum.

"For weeks I have been arguing with

See DOLLAR, Page 10

Dow Jones Up 4.16 2983.39

Trib Index Down 0.51% 109.50

The Dollar

	Thurs. close	previous close
DM	1.401	1.395
Pound	1.6092	1.6093
Yen	90.90	91.35
FF	4.9825	4.963

For Tourists, An Easier Wait At White House

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The White House, taking a cue from other attractions, is trying to become friendlier to tourists.

An indoor visitors' center in the Great Hall of the nearby Commerce Department building will open Tuesday. It is intended to give people a place to wait comfortably instead of having to stand outside in long lines during summer heat and winter cold.

The \$3.7 million White House Visitors' Center is more than an alternative for tired tourists — 60 of whom required emergency medical aid last year for everything from heat exhaustion to heart attacks while waiting for the 20-minute tour of the White House.

The center is intended to entertain and educate the 1.25 million people who make the pilgrimage to the presidential mansion each year. In a sense, the center's exhibits personalize the White House, making up a photo album that captures candid moments in the lives of America's first families.

Visitors can check out a portrait of the Ford family looking like the presidential family Bunch, in wide ties and '70s lapels; see Mrs. Lincoln, heavy with sadness at a nation's loss; or catch Chelsea Clinton, beaming a shy smile and holding the First Cat, socks.

Also, by making one of Washington's most visible spots friendlier, tourism officials hope to improve the perception of government among visitors.

"I think it humanizes the whole idea of the White House as a place where actual people live," said J. Carter Brown, director

See WHITE HOUSE, Page 10

Is He Back? Michael Jordan Works Out With the Bulls

The Associated Press

DEERFIELD, Illinois — Michael Jordan worked out with the Chicago Bulls again Thursday, adding to the speculation that he is leaving baseball and preparing for a return to the National Basketball Association.

Radio talk shows are buzzing with questions. Jordan himself hasn't been talking. Jordan showed up before practice Thursday morning and was one of the first players on the court, shooting baskets with the Bulls' Toni Kukoc. Jordan was wearing a white sleeveless T-shirt that said "Bulls" on the front in red and black letters.

He also worked out Wednesday, and

while he was at the NBA team's Berto Center on Tuesday, it was unclear whether he took part in those drills.

Asked whether Jordan would return to the Bulls, their coach, Phil Jackson, said, "I haven't heard anything formal," and walked away.

Said guard B. J. Armstrong: "I would love to answer that question, but... I guess I value my friendship with him too much to answer that, so I'll let him answer that however he may. It's his decision and his responsibility to let you know one way or the other."

Jordan cleaned out his locker and left spring training camp March 2 after the

Chicago White Sox split their team into those who would play in exhibition games and those who wouldn't. He flew back to Chicago on March 3.

The general manager of the White Sox, Ron Schueler, said in Florida on Wednesday that "I haven't heard a word from him since he left."

Jerry Reinsdorf, who owns both the White Sox and the Bulls, told Schueler he had spoken with David Falk, Jordan's agent, but "I don't know what was said," Schueler said. "It got brought up but I didn't get into details with Jerry about what was said."

Falk was out of his office in Washington

and not available for comment Thursday morning.

Schueler said before Wednesday's exhibition game against the Detroit Tigers that Jordan had until Saturday to report to the White Sox minor league spring training camp.

Asked whether Jordan would be suspended, fined or released if he didn't report Saturday, Schueler said, "I'd guess that he'd be released."

Jordan is technically not due until the minor league camp gets under way.

Jordan said before camp opened in mid-February that he would not be a replacement player.

Newsstand Prices

Andorra	9.00 FF	Luxembourg	80 L	Fr
Antilles	11.20 FF	Morocco	12 Dh	
Cameron	1.400 CFA	Qatar	8.00 Rial	
Egypt	8.00 FF	Romania	11.20 FF	
France	8.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	8.00 R	
Germany	9.00 DM	Spain	225 PTAS	
Greece	2.800 Lira	Tunisia	1.000 Din	
Italy	1.200 Lira	Turkey	1.450 Lira	
Ivory Coast	1.120 CFA	Ukraine	8.50 Dr	
Jordan	1.10 JD	U.A.E.	8.50 Dir	
Lebanon	1.50 US\$	U.S. Mk. (Eur.)	\$1.10	



Terror Training/Network of 'Muslim Holy Warriors' Thrives

Pakistan Tiptoes Around Armed Islamic Militants

By John Ward Anderson
and Kamran Khan
Washington Post Service

KARACHI, Pakistan — On the third Thursday of every month, a bus with about two dozen young men pulls away from a secret rendezvous point in this port city and travels 1,000 kilometers north to a base in Afghanistan, where the men spend the next 40 days in basic training for a worldwide holy war.

The camp, just north of the Pakistani border town of Miram Shah, is operated by Harkatul Ansar, or Movement of Friends, a radical group based in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, that is sworn to fight for the global supremacy of Islam.

Since 1987, more than 4,000 militants — including Pakistanis, Indians, Arabs from several countries and a small number of Americans — have been trained by the group in making bombs, throwing grenades and firing assault weapons, members of the group said.

"Ours is a truly international network of genuine Muslim holy warriors," said Khalid Awan, who joined Harkat, as the group is popularly known, after receiving his master's degree in economics from Pakistan's Punjab University.

"We believe frontiers could never divide Muslims," he said. "They are one nation, and they will remain a single entity."

Harkat is one of the largest and most militant Islamic groups operating in Pakistan, which critics complain has done little to keep radical Muslims from using its soil to launch terrorist attacks.

Pakistan's reluctance to crack down was spotlighted last month when Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the suspected mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York, fled here as a worldwide dragnet tightened around him.

Mr. Yousef was arrested Feb. 7 in Islamabad when U.S. officials led Pakistani police to the guest house where he was staying.

Pakistan has been a haven for armed Islamic militants since the early 1990s, when dozens of fundamentalist groups and thousands of soldiers who had fought a jihad, or holy war, to drive the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan began searching for new theaters in which to wage battle.

The groups have continued to thrive here and in Afghanistan because of the easy availability of cheap and sophisticated weapons, and because large tribal areas along the Pakistani-Afghan frontier are unpoliced and lawless.

Many of the weapons can be traced to the more than \$1 billion per year that the United States gave to Afghan militias based in Pakistan during the war against the Soviets.

POLITICIANS in Pakistan have been reluctant to launch a committed effort to shut down the groups because they have the support of the country's powerful Muslim clergy. The groups openly raise funds and recruit members.

"The government at the highest levels is sufficiently frightened of these people, but its ability to crack down on them is very limited," said a Western diplomat in Islamabad.

"No, they are not doing enough, but it's not a lack of will," the diplomat added. "It's that the government here is not terribly efficient."



Four Western hostages meeting the press in New Delhi in November, after Indian police rescued them from Muslim separatists in Kashmir. From left are Paul Ridout and Miles Croston of Britain, Bela Nuss of the United States and Rhys Partridge of Britain.

Observers say Pakistan has put itself in the difficult position of allowing the groups to operate in the country to fight against Indian troops in the disputed region of Kashmir, while at the same time trying to prevent the groups from using Pakistan as a base for operations against other countries.

The Pakistani government did not respond to requests to provide a spokesman to answer detailed questions.

In a telephone interview, Foreign Secretary Najamuddin A. Sheikh said the underlying problem was religious extremism, fueled by sectarian clashes between Pakistan's majority Sunni and minority Shiite Muslims.

Often, he said, the extremists were encouraged in religious schools, which receive sizable state funding and are prime feeders for militant Islamic organizations.

Mr. Sheikh, the Foreign Ministry's highest-ranking civil servant, said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had proposed registering the schools as one way to moderate them.

India has long charged that Pakistan is involved in "state terrorism" by arming, training and funding Muslim insurgents waging a brutal civil war in Kashmir.

In 1993, the United States warned Pakistan that unless it stopped supporting Kashmir insurgents, the country would be put on the U.S. list of terrorist states. Since then, U.S. officials say, Pakistan has significantly reduced its role in the conflict.

Last month, during a state visit by Miss Bhutto to the Philippines, President Fidel V. Ramos protested that Pakistanis were fighting alongside Muslim extremists battling for autonomy against his government.

Russia has charged that Pakistanis are aid-

ing the separatist war going on in Chechnya.

Following complaints by Arab governments in Egypt, Algeria and Jordan that Pakistanis were involved in extremist movements in their countries, Pakistan asked Afghan aid groups — many were really fronts for militant organizations — to leave. That forced some groups underground and pushed others into Afghanistan.

"They have a right to protest, but we have our duties to perform as Muslims," said Tariq Cheema, 26, a member of the radical Markaz Dawatul Arshad organization, which aims to establish "the rule of God" throughout the world.

While conducting street-corner recruiting in Karachi, Mr. Cheema passed out a list of names and addresses of 56 Markaz members killed last year during fighting against government troops in Tajikistan, the Philippines, Bosnia and Kashmir.

Since the end of the Afghan war in 1989, Pakistani officials estimate that at least 10,000 Islamic militants have been trained by various groups in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas.

"Arabs run exclusive training camps for the recruits of Middle Eastern origin," a leading member of Harkat claimed, adding that the instructors were Sudanese, Egyptian and Libyan veterans of the Afghan war.

"We only go to those camps for advanced military training that involves operating anti-aircraft guns and tanks" and laying land mines, he said.

Funding often comes from Muslims who think moderate Arab governments are becoming too Westernized.

"Funding for our organization largely comes from Saudi Arabia, where several phi-

lanthropists are not happy with the way the country is governed by the ruling family," said a Markaz activist.

A Harkat official said his organization's largest donor was a group of Muslim merchants from India who now live in England.

The groups claim to collect millions of dollars a year in public fund-raising drives in Pakistan's cities, when they plead for money to pay for their holy war against Indian troops in Kashmir.

ALTHOUGH Harkat started as a relief organization for Afghan refugees in the mid-1980s and later supplied soldiers to Afghan militias, the group only recently emerged as a major militant organization in Pakistan.

According to Indian and Pakistani intelligence reports, Harkat committed two kidnappings to try to force the release of Harkat leaders imprisoned by India.

On Feb. 5, during its first public fund-raising drive in Karachi, 11 people — some Harkat members, but most bystanders — were shot and killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen on a place where Harkat was collecting money. Pakistan accused India's secret service of the ambush.

At a news conference, a Harkat spokesman, Naved Masood Hashmi, said the party supported "mujahideen struggling for the glory of Islam against the forces of darkness and infidels the world over."

Claiming to draw members from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Algeria, Bangladesh and other countries, Mr. Hashmi said, "We'll fight in any part of the world where Muslims are being victimized, whether by Hindus, Christians, Jews or Communists."

U.S. Offers a \$2 Million Reward in Slaying of 2 Westerners

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KARACHI, Pakistan — The U.S. government on Thursday offered a \$2 million reward for information leading to the arrest of the gunmen who killed two U.S. consulate employees and wounded a third.

An FBI anti-terrorism team headed for Pakistan to help search for the men who ambushed the U.S. government van Wednesday morning. At least two gunmen with assault rifles fired on the vehicle, which was carrying employees to the consulate, when it stopped at a red light. The gunmen fled in a stolen taxi.

"The U.S. government is prepared to offer rewards of up to \$2 million for information

leading to the arrest of those responsible for the deaths of Jackie Van Landingham and Gary Durrell," said the U.S. ambassador, John C. Monjo. "The terrorist murder of Americans overseas is also a crime under U.S. law, and the U.S. government is empowered to pursue the perpetrators and bring them to justice."

Mr. Monjo said security measures had been tightened recently and would be further strengthened to ensure that consulate employees could operate safely.

The Pakistani police patrolled the streets and searched for the killers Thursday, but did not announce any breakthroughs.

The attack on the Americans broke a pattern in which foreigners had largely escaped

ethnic and sectarian violence. Seven people were killed Thursday in four separate drive-by shootings in central and east Karachi, the police said. Most or all of the shootings were related to the sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslim groups, one of several ongoing feuds in Karachi.

The police have at least one witness involving the attack on the Americans. He is Zulfiqar Ahmed, the driver who had his taxi stolen at gunpoint near the Karachi airport early Wednesday. The taxi, found abandoned a mile from the site of the attack, is believed to be the vehicle used by the assailants.

U.S. counterterrorism experts were be-

lieved to be focusing on a theory that the killings were in revenge for the arrest last month in Pakistan of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, a suspect in a bomb plot. Mr. Yousef was swiftly extradited to the United States, where he is suspected of being the mastermind of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

A memorial service was held Thursday afternoon at the consulate for the two slain Americans. Miss Van Landingham, 33, worked as secretary and Mr. Durrell, 45, as a communications technician. Mark McCloy, 31, who worked in the consulate's post office, was in stable condition with gunshot wounds.

(AP, Reuters)

Yeltsin Yields to West
On Rights Observer
In Chechnya ConflictBy Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — In another gesture to Western opinion, President Boris N. Yeltsin agreed Thursday to a permanent presence in the secessionist Chechnya republic of a human-rights mission from the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Meeting the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Spain, who came here on a mission from the European Union, Mr. Yeltsin repeated his assurances that Russia was committed to a political settlement of the Chechnya war.

Mr. Yeltsin is to meet Friday with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, to agree formally on an economic standby program entailing Russia to a loan of \$6.4 billion.

While Mr. Camdessus must present the loan to the IMF board for approval, the money should begin to flow to Russia in April.

The loan is another sign of Western willingness to deal with Russia as a great power despite Chechnya. But the IMF, which has seen Russian promises of economic rectitude collapse in the past, has insisted on providing the money monthly, not quarterly, dependent on Russian economic performance.

On Monday, the European Union froze a wide-ranging trade and cooperation agreement with Russia because of Moscow's military tactics on the largely defenseless Chechen capital, Grozny, which included aerial bombing and massive artillery attacks.

The visit of Foreign Ministers Klaus Kinkel of Germany, Alain Juppé of France and Javier Solana of the European Union, together with an EU commissioner, Hans van den Broek, was designed to seek assurances from Mr. Yeltsin that human rights would be respected in Chechnya and that a political dialogue would start with the Chechens.

Mr. Yeltsin and his foreign minister, Andrei V. Kozyrev, urged the Europeans to carry out the trade deal, which was reached last year. Mr. Kozyrev said with some irritation that ratification of the accord was being "unjustifiably dragged out" because of unrelated criticisms about Russian behavior in Chechnya.

But the Europeans have been struggling to find a way to express their concern about human-rights violations there without undermining either Mr.

Yeltsin or the stability of Russia's borders.

Russian forces continue to use bombs and shells against Chechen villages where secessionist fighters are thought to be sheltering. There have been allegations of human-rights abuses from international organizations like Amnesty International, including the mistreatment of prisoners.

After meeting Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Kinkel said: "The Russian side said in principle they accept the idea of the OSCE in Chechnya, but we did not go into details" or settle on timing.

The establishment of a permanent human-rights mission in Chechnya also has been a demand of the Americans. Western diplomats said, suggesting that it was a prerequisite before President Bill Clinton agrees to come to Moscow, most probably in early May.

As a possible sign that the Yeltsin administration wants to lock up a summit date, the U.S. ambassador to Russia, Thomas R. Pickering, was told by Washington to break off a trip to the Russian Far East and return to Moscow for consultations.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said Thursday he would fly to Europe in about two weeks for a meeting with Mr. Kozyrev. Mr. Christopher made the announcement as he arrived in Israel.

The Clinton administration has been urging the Russians, without success so far, to cancel plans to sell nuclear power plants to Iran.

Before arriving in Moscow, Mr. Kinkel, said the delegation would not "mimic its words over Chechnya."

Mr. Juppé stressed that isolating Russia was not an option, but that "Russia must respect commitments entered into with the EU," including the respect for human rights within Russian territory.

Ex-Colombian Diplomat
Convicted in Drug Case

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT — A former Colombian diplomat has been convicted of smuggling and dealing in cocaine and sentenced to nine and a half years in prison by a Frankfurt court. Roberto Soto Prieto, 50, was found guilty of setting up a shipment of 62 kilograms (136 pounds) of cocaine to Germany by boat in May 1993. The Frankfurt State Court ruled that Mr. Prieto had been acting as a middleman between Colombian drug barons and European buyers.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strike Will Disrupt French Airline

PARIS (AFP) — A strike action will heavily disrupt flights of the domestic carrier France Inter for three days starting Sunday, the company said Thursday.

The company said that more than half of its flights would be canceled Sunday afternoon and that there would be substantial disruptions until Tuesday because of several unions' call for a 60-hour strike.

Unions representing pilots and cabin crew have called for strike actions from midday Sunday to midnight Tuesday, while ground crew have been called to observe a 24-hour strike Monday. The unions are angry about "illegal and unacceptable" staff transfers.

Air traffic controllers in Ust-Izhmansk in Siberia entered their sixth day of a reported hunger strike Thursday. The Inter-Tass news agency said the 20 controllers at the airport in Russia's Irkutsk region were demanding that it be freed from the regional aviation enterprise to join the government-run federal system.

Rock slides caused by heavy rain wiped out trails and damaged the Grand Canyon's main water pipeline, forcing hotel guests to eat off paper plates and cancel hiking trips. The park superintendent, Robert L. Arnsberger, said that the national park in Arizona would not close but that its lodges would not take any reservations until the pipeline was repaired.

The State Department warned Americans about the danger of possible terrorist attacks in Peru by the Shining Path revolutionaries group before national elections on April 9. "U.S. citizens and visitors to Peru are encouraged to exercise caution during this period and to limit any time spent in the vicinity of Peruvian government installations, diplomatic missions and high-density commercial areas, particularly after dark," it said.

USAir plans to cut nearly 10 percent of its 2,500 daily flights by July in an effort to save more than \$100 million a year and move back toward profitability.

(AP)

Wave of Mafia Killings Meant to Scare Informers, Italians Say

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

ROME — Alarmed by nine gang-style slayings in Sicily in recent days, Italian prosecutors have warned of a new "terrorist

campaign" by organized crime aimed in part at silencing informers who have been vital to the government's fight against the Mafia.

On Monday night, in the Sicilian capital, Palermo, gunmen killed a nephew of Tommaso

Buscetta, a former mafioso who has cooperated with state prosecutors since 1984. His testimony was instrumental in convicting Salvatore (Totò) Riina, the reputed boss of all bosses, and in the indictment of former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti on charges of acting as the Mafia's protector in Rome.

The killing of the nephew, Domenico Buscetta, along with the other slayings, has led the police to suspect a renewed effort by the Mafia to intimidate those who would break the criminal organization's traditional code of silence.

"It is a terrorist campaign by the Cosa Nostra that has differ-

ent objectives and among them, the phenomenon of cooperation," a Sicilian prosecutor, Gian Carlo Caselli, said at a news conference Tuesday.

The motives for some other recent killings are less clear, prompting some experts to speculate that the Mafia has other reasons for resuming a campaign of terror.

In one case on Monday, three men were gunned down near Catania, Sicily, in what the police described as a "classic Mafia hit," while on Feb. 26 a young couple was killed in the town of Corleone, Mr. Riina's hometown, which for 16 years had been spared any violence.

For the last two years, there has been a relative lull in Mafia-related violence, as the Italian justice system went into high gear in reaction to the bombings of public monuments and the killing of two prominent anti-Mafia investigators.

"After the massacres of 1992 and 1993, there was a period of pause in the activities of the Cosa Nostra to see if other methods besides violence could modify the laws on collaborators," said Piero Luigi Vigna, a prosecutor from Florence. "This did not happen, and there are more collaborators."

Throughout its fight against the Mafia, the government has

relied heavily on testimony from former Mafia members who have cooperated with the state in exchange for leniency. According to prosecutors, the ranks of such informers have expanded in recent months, reaching an estimated total of 820.

In the years after his decision to cooperate with the police, Tommaso Buscetta, has lost several relatives to Mafia hits, including his two sons.

In an interview Tuesday in the Italian press, Mr. Buscetta, who now lives in the United States under the federal witness protection program, asked his family's forgiveness.

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THE AMERICAS

Fearing a Defeat, Republicans Delay Term Limits Vote

By Katherine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Trying to avert an embarrassing defeat on one of their major campaign pledges, House Republicans have postponed a vote on a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of Congress.

The vote was to have been held Tuesday, but the Republican leadership put it off until the end of the month.

The main bill that was to be voted on, approved recently by the House Judiciary Committee, was so unpopular that the leadership, itself divided on the wisdom of term limits, wanted time to regroup. Added to the mix is a new, more stringent proposal by a band of freshmen, as well as other competing proposals.

Another problem for the Republicans is that they need more than simple majority. A constitutional amendment needs two-thirds of the members for passage, or 290 votes in the House and 67 in the Senate. It must then be

ratified by three-fourths of the states to take effect.

In a letter to House members Wednesday night, the majority leader, Representative Dick Armey of Texas, said the Republican leadership needed to make an aggressive effort to rally support for term limits.

"There's a disparity between our vote count and public opinion, and we want to close that gap," said a top Republican aide.

Dave Mason, a political analyst with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research organization in Washington, said: "You have a very tumultuous situation right now among members and advocacy groups about where they want to go. The great fear is that the semi-fiasco in the Judiciary Committee would be repeated on the floor."

Support in Congress for term limits has always been shaky, but a vote as early as Tuesday would have almost certainly ended in defeat for supporters of term limits.

One major obstacle was that the bill

approved by the Judiciary Committee was seen as making a mockery of the concept of term limits, since it would allow members to serve 12 years, take two years off, then serve another 12 years. It also would have overridden state laws on term limits, contradicting the Republicans' push for decentralization.

The leadership originally scheduled the vote on term limits for the middle of the Republicans' first 100 days because there were always fears it would lose, said Mr. Mason.

If a vote came early in the process, it could disrupt the momentum gained by passage of the more popular measures in the party's 10-item "Contract With America." If it came too late, critics would say the Republicans were running out of steam.

Advocates say the leadership has been nonchalant about building support for the concept. Reminded Wednesday that some of his leadership team opposed term limits, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, said, "Well, I mean, it's a free country."

Mr. Armey's letter implicitly acknowledged that the leadership's efforts had been lackluster so far.

"We have to make every effort to pass term limits," he wrote, "and let the American people have a clear understanding of where their elected representatives stand on this important issue."

One problem is that members have not been able to agree on how many terms they should serve. There is near-universal agreement that senators should serve two six-year terms, but there is widespread disagreement over how long House members should serve.

While polls show that voters favor the shortest of the proposed term limits — three two-year terms — many members, including Mr. Gingrich, advocate six two-year terms.

At the same time, some members of the Republican leadership oppose term limits altogether. They include Representatives Tom DeLay of Texas, the majority whip, John A. Boehner of Ohio, chairman of the House Republi-

can Conference, and Susan Molinari of New York, vice chairwoman of the conference. Other opponents include such influential senior members as Henry J. Hyde of Illinois, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

"It's amazing we've got this kind of desertion on the part of the leadership," said Elizabeth Stern, a spokeswoman for Term Limits Legal Institute, which advocates term limits. "We didn't expect it."

Many of those involved in the term limits move expressed interest in a new bill being proposed by a group of freshmen, led by Van Hilleary, Republican of Tennessee. It would limit members to a total of 12 years, without the sabbatical provided in the committee bill, and would allow states to keep whatever term limits they had already passed.

"The Hilleary proposal is immensely popular among the freshmen and is gathering popularity among outside groups," said Mr. Mason. "Two weeks from now it might be popular."

POLITICAL NOTES

Republicans Unveil a Tax Credit

WASHINGTON — The House's top tax writer presented legislation Thursday that would lower taxes for families with children, savers and many businesses, closely tracking most tax reductions promised by the Republicans' "Contract With America."

"We are keeping our word," said Representative Bill Archer, Republican of Texas and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. "Taxes will be cut. Relief is on the way."

As promised by the contract, the Republicans' campaign pledge to America, the bill's centerpiece is a \$500 tax credit for children under age 18 in families that earn less than \$200,000 a year. A credit is subtracted from the amount a taxpayer owes.

The credit would be nonrefundable. That means taxpayers who owe less than \$500 could only use as much of the credit as it would take to make their tax liability zero, and would not be entitled to a refund for the difference from the Internal Revenue Service.

Studies of the contract's tax proposals by the Joint Tax Committee, Congress' official tax analyst, have said the tax credit was supposed to be refundable. That would mean that people who owed no or very little taxes would be entitled to a refund from the IRS, which would mostly benefit lower-income people.

But Republicans said that the tax panel's report was wrong, and that they always intended it to be nonrefundable. (AP)

Lunch-Cutters Forgot Army Brats

WASHINGTON — When a House committee voted last month to scrap the national school lunch program and let states decide how to use federal money to feed students, it forgot about a large group of needy young diners.

The Republican plan to revamp the 49-year-old program has no provision for the 57,000 children of military families who receive breakfast or lunch at Pentagon-run schools on bases in the United States and abroad. About 40 percent of the children receive free or reduced price meals, since some service members' income is low enough to allow them to qualify for the program.

Under the proposal, a part of the Republican-backed legislation to overhaul the nation's welfare system, states would receive a lump sum of federal money to run the lunch program. But there are no block grants in Germany, Japan, Italy or the 11 other countries where American military families live. Pentagon officials fear the bill also omits financing for children at 65 base schools in the United States.

"It clearly was not the intention to leave out military families, but part of the problem with the 100-day sprint is that you can't always be as thorough as you want," said a spokesman for Representative Constance A. Morella of Maryland.

In the Republicans' rush to approve the legislative goals of the Contract With America by their self-imposed 100-day deadline, congressional experts and even lawmakers acknowledged that the frenzied pace had produced some poorly written bills that fail to examine all nuances of an issue.

House Republicans said they were doing their best, but the dizzying pace is taking its toll. "I've had three hearings today," said Representative Duke Cunningham, a California Republican. "I've got constituents waiting for me. I've got calls like yours and votes on the floor. I'm not getting to sleep until 2 A.M. It's crazy." (NYT)

Senate Panel Votes to Freeze Rules

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee voting along party lines on Thursday approved a sweeping moratorium on federal regulations, despite warnings from Democrats that health and safety could be jeopardized.

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee rejected a string of Democratic amendments aimed at narrowing the scope of the freeze, before sending the moratorium bill to the Senate floor by a 6-to-5 vote.

The legislation, retroactive to November, would prevent federal agencies from issuing more than 900 federal rules, guidelines and regulations for the remainder of the year. A similar bill already has been approved by the House.

Republicans on the panel argued that the government should stop issuing regulations until Congress considers broader legislation aimed at reforming the regulatory process to make it less burdensome on business and citizens.

But Democrats said that although they agreed reform was needed, the sweeping nature of the freeze would jeopardize needed rules as it does away with bad ones. "We're acting as if we're doing something constructive here, but we're not," said Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio. (AP)

Americans Are Cooler on Gingrich

WASHINGTON — The more Americans see of Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the House of Representatives who spearheaded the Republican takeover of Congress, the less they like him, according to a new poll.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll, which surveyed 1,011 adults from March 4 to 7, showed Mr. Gingrich's disapproval rating has shot up 11 percentage points, to 43 percent, since a similar poll in January. His approval rating was only 37 percent, the poll indicated.

But the poll also showed that public approval of Congress had surged 10 percentage points since January to 41 percent, its highest level in years. (Reuters)

Quote / Unquote

Nancy Reagan, testifying about drug policy before a House committee Thursday: "People often ask me what I miss most about our eight years in the White House. In retrospect, I think what I miss most is the sense of common national purpose that so many of us felt as we tried to protect our children. What has happened to our common national purpose on drugs? And how do we get it back?" (AP)

House Acts to Curb Shareholder Suits

By Neil A. Lewis
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has easily passed a measure intended to limit the ability of stockholders and their lawyers to file lawsuits accusing companies or stock brokers of fraud.

The bill, part of a package of Republican-sponsored legislation to overhaul the nation's system of handling civil lawsuits, was approved Wednesday by a vote of 325 to 99. It was supported by 99 Democrats, one more than the 98 Democrats who opposed it along with the House's one independent.

The debate centered on how the courts are used to apportion justice in civil disputes. Republicans contended that the bill would reduce frivolous suits filed on flimsy evidence, to make a quick gain by persuading a company to offer a settlement rather than face a trial.

But Democrats who opposed it said the bill is so broad that its main effect would be to inhibit deserving citizens from seeking redress from corporations.

The Securities Litigation Reform Act has several elements, all intended to sharply increase the risks of bringing unsuccessful lawsuits against companies.

The measure, for example, would require someone who brings an unsuccessful suit to pay all the court costs and legal fees of the defendant if the judge deems the suit to have been poorly grounded.

Most important, the bill raises the threshold needed to prove fraud by requiring that stockholders who bring such suits must show that the broker or company made fraudulent statements knowingly or recklessly. The current law has no such explicit standard.

The Clinton administration has raised fewer objections to this part of the House package than to other provisions, including a bill adopted by the House on Tuesday to curtail civil lawsuits sharply.

The Senate is expected to be less hospitable to the measures when it takes them up next month, although the many lobbyists who have been engaged in the issue are in wide agreement that the fate of the legislation is uncertain there.

Underlying the debate is the assertion that some lawyers have made a lucrative practice of seeking or maintaining a group of "professional plaintiffs," people who own a small portion of stock in a company to give them standing to sue when the stock price goes down.

These "strike suits" would be more difficult to bring because the measure would create a mechanism to take the control of class-action suits out of the hands of such lawyers. Instead, the suits would be supervised by committees of stockholders who are affected.

By various accounts there are about 400 shareholder suits a year, a number that has remained steady for several years.



CHOW LINE — Third-grader Stacey Heislup getting lunch with President Bill Clinton at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Clinton visited the school to protest proposed cuts in the federal lunch program.

Agency Moves to Stamp Out Teenage Smoking

By Philip J. Hilts
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Dr. David A. Kessler, the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, says that smoking is fundamentally a pediatric disease because most addiction to tobacco begins among teenagers, and he has outlined steps to combat the problem.

In a speech in New York at the Columbia University School of Law on Wednesday, Dr. Kessler outlined a program that will probably be a model for announcements this year from the Food and Drug Administration on whether and how it should regulate tobacco.

He called for a comprehensive effort to prevent young people from becoming addicted to nicotine. The program would

include restricting children and teenagers' access to tobacco products, perhaps by banning or restricting vending machines; teaching children about tobacco addiction; and reducing the "powerful imagery in tobacco advertising and promotion" that affects children.

That may include prohibitions on certain kinds of advertising, like those proposed in a study by the Institute of Medicine, which is affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences.

The institute suggested banning photographs and cartoons aimed at young people and requiring all cigarette packages to be in black and white and carry only the cigarette name and required government warnings.

Dr. Kessler, a pediatrician, said: "It is easy to think of smoking as an adult problem. It is adults who die from tobacco-related diseases. We see adults light up in a restaurant or bar."

But he said, that is like wandering into a theater during the third act, "after the plot has been set." He added: "A person who hasn't started smoking by age 19 is unlikely to ever become a smoker. Nicotine addiction begins when most tobacco users are teenagers, so let's call this what it really is: a pediatric disease."

He referred to studies that show that more than 90 percent of people who have smoked for years began while they were teenagers. Conversely, he said, a large majority of people who started smoking at age 25 or later soon quit.

Since last spring, his agency has been investigating whether nicotine is an addictive drug that should be regulated.

Detective Denies Simpson Defense Claim

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LOS ANGELES — Detective Mark Fuhrman made his long-awaited appearance on the witness stand in the O. J. Simpson murder trial on Thursday and denied knowing a woman who claims he made racist remarks to her.

Marcia Clark, the lead prosecutor, wasted no time in bringing out the attacks made on Mr. Fuhrman by Mr. Simpson's lawyers, who claim the detective is a racist who planted a bloody glove at Mr. Simpson's estate.

Mr. Simpson has pleaded not guilty to murdering Nicole Brown Simpson, who divorced him in early 1994, and her friend Ronald L. Goldman.

Ms. Clark opened her questioning of Mr. Fuhrman by asking him how he felt about testifying in the case. "Nervous, reluctant," he replied.

When asked why, the detective said: "Throughout, since June 13, it seems I've seen a lot of the evidence ignored and a lot of personal issues come to the forefront. I think that's too bad."

Prosecutors questioned him about a letter in which Kathleen Bell alleges Mr. Fuhrman made a racial slur in her presence in the mid-1980s. Ms. Clark asked Mr. Fuhrman if he "knew a woman or met someone by the name of Kathleen Bell."

"I did not," he said.

Ms. Bell wrote to defense attorneys saying Mr. Fuhrman had expressed disgust with interracial couples. Mr. Simpson is black; his slain former wife was white, as is Mr. Fuhrman.

Mr. Fuhrman did say he had an encounter with Mr. Simpson in the mid-1980s when the detective — then a patrol officer — responded to a call about a domestic dispute at Mr. Simpson's Brentwood mansion.

Earlier, one of Mr. Fuhrman's colleagues, Detective Tom Lange, spent his eighth day on the witness stand, rejecting a defense theory that the murders were linked to cocaine abuse by a friend of Mrs. Simpson's.

He discussed the theory,

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SOLICITATION

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It is intended to issue a solicitation for renovation work in the Ambassador's residence, an approx. 1,800 sq.m. large building, built in 1878. The work consists of (but is not limited to) extensive renovation including replacement of structural wood elements, HVAC and electrical upgrading, bathroom and hot water system renovation, and installation and repair of waterproofing. The interior finishes are to be part of the project. The value of this project is between \$1,000,000.00 and \$2,000,000.00. A pre-bid conference is scheduled on site for on or about (w/a) 28 April 1995.

The solicitation package will be issued on 15 April 1995. It will be available from the American Embassy Bonn at the above address.

Companies requesting a copy of the solicitation documents shall write or fax to the above address, and also submit background information on your company including a list of similar projects performed during the last two years. All bidders offering to perform under this solicitation shall be responsible for securing all necessary licenses and permits needed for construction, architectural, electrical and all other relevant work.

The Government will require a 10% Bank Letter of Guarantee for performance. There will be a refundable fee of US\$100,000 or DM 150,000 for each solicitation package issued.

The solicitation and the resulting award will be subject to U.S. Government regulations and laws.

Away From Politics

One in six veterans of the Gulf War who suffer postwar ailments still cannot be diagnosed, but early tests indicate chemical and biological agents were not involved in any of the illnesses, the Pentagon's top doctor said. (AP)

A jury in Minnesota has decided that IBM is not liable for injuries that a former high school secretary said were caused by the design of its computer keyboards. (NYT)

The Pentagon has a new network of spies collecting military information abroad, Jane's Defense Weekly reported. The report said the director of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency emphasized that its operations "do not necessarily have to be James Bond-type stuff." (AP)

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EUROPE

Balladur Beset by Defections and Questions on Finances

PARIS—The presidential hopes of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur dimmed sharply Thursday as prominent center-right politicians rallied to the Gaullist front-runner, Jacques Chirac, and fresh evidence surfaced tarnishing Mr. Balladur's image as a scrupulous public servant.

Disclosures about his spectacular profits through dealings with GSI, a company where he worked while not in the government but still in Parliament, have hurt Mr. Balladur, partly because he only disclosed them with poor grace. After stonewalling for weeks, he has promised full financial disclosure after his hand was forced by revelations in Le Canard Enchaîné, an investigative paper.

Mr. Balladur has denied any wrongdoing. But the big profits will reinforce impressions that he is remote from ordinary people's concerns at a time of recession and unemployment.

The gains fit uncomfortably with

Mr. Balladur's effort to promote his dedication to public service and his reputation as a man whose management skills are balanced by strong social compassion and moral conscience.

In a further sign of Mr. Balladur's fading political fortunes, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, normally an aggressive critic of the Chirac camp, has suddenly adopted a conciliatory tone about conservative reconciliation after the first round of voting in late April.

Mr. Pasqua seemed to be saying that the duel between Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac will eliminate one of them, leaving the winner to carry the conservative colors in a runoff against a Socialist, Lionel Jospin.

The total of conservative supporters should guarantee easy victory for their candidate, but that seems increasingly unlikely to Mr. Balladur, who has failed to reverse his slide in opinion polls. The defection to Mr. Chirac by key supporters of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, starting with

the centrist leader Charles Millon, indicates their conclusion that Mr. Chirac has acquired unbeatable momentum.

Another major windfall for the Paris mayor came Thursday as 22 members of Parliament from center-right parties that form a key portion of Mr. Balladur's support said they would back Mr. Chirac.

For Mr. Balladur, the blows comes at a critical moment in the campaign, when he needed to regain the initiative. Instead, he has found himself under fire about his own years in business.

He has acknowledged that he earned 2.5 million francs (\$308,000) in capital gains from sales of stock in Générale de Service Informatique, or GSI, the computer services company that he once ran. After joining and then leaving government, Mr. Balladur, while still a member of Parliament, was named adviser to his old company and paid was about 100,000 francs a month for nearly three years.

It was not illegal, and Mr. Balladur has paid taxes on all his salary and capital gains. But the episode has put him in a bad light because it smacks of revolving-door political contacts.

He joined GSI in the 1970s after working as an aide to President Georges Pompidou, leaving to become finance minister in 1986. The privatizations his ministry oversaw included a conglomerate — then GEC, today Alcatel Alsthom — that owned GSI. The latter was allowed, in a rather unusual step, to spin itself off via a leveraged buyout.

The dispensation raised questions about whether the public was denied a plump opportunity and whether GSI was sold to its employees at an artificially low price.

These same shares later enabled Mr. Balladur to pocket his considerable profit. He says that he bought them, after returning to the private sector, through arrangements with employees who wanted cash and then sold them

when he became prime minister in 1993.

Of this transaction, Mr. Balladur said Thursday: "I obeyed the law most scrupulously. My situation is completely clear."

But Le Canard Enchaîné has raised the possibility that Mr. Balladur bought the shares at the low cost of the initial offering and held them in a third party's name while he remained in office. That device for hiding ownership would be illegal.

His career at GSI as an adviser has also raised doubts about whether he was doing much more than influence-peddling. Mr. Balladur retorted Thursday that the French tax authorities investigated him without finding any violations, including pay for nonexistent work.

Nonetheless, Mr. Balladur seems to have lost the Teflon image he enjoyed while three of his cabinet ministers resigned because of corruption investigations. —JOSEPH FITCHETT

BRIEFLY EUROPE

EU Sketches Out a Police Network

BRUSSELS—The interior ministers of the 15 European Union nations have thrashed out the brief for the future of Europol, the European police network, but they still have some fine-tuning to do, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua of France said Thursday.

Europol will handle the fight against the drug trade, nuclear smuggling, clandestine immigration, the slave trade, money laundering and, after long debate by the ministers, terrorism, Mr. Pasqua said.

Germany and the Netherlands want any European citizen to be able to apply directly to Europol to check personal details in a data base, in accordance with freedom of information legislation, but France wants to screen requests by having citizens apply to an ombudsman for information. The interior ministers will continue their work with an informal meeting in Paris in early April, Mr. Pasqua said. (AFP)

No Promises on 'Greenhouse' Gases

BRUSSELS—European Union environment ministers on Thursday resisted calls to promise cuts in emissions of "greenhouse" gases that are believed to cause climate change.

In their last meeting before an international conference on climate change, the ministers agreed to a text that omitted specific commitments to cut emissions of such gases as carbon dioxide, generated mainly from the burning of fossil fuels.

"If nature could speak it would speak with ministers to agree to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent over the next decade," said Andrew Kerr of the World Wide Fund for Nature, an environmental group.

"In the next few weeks, this is the critical time for the EU to show that it's serious about tackling this problem and that it's going to make a commitment to curbing its emissions," Mr. Kerr said. (Reuters)

Fraud Is Said to Drain EU Budget

BRUSSELS—An increase in cases of fraud is sapping the European Union budget, with 2,420 cases reported last year that cost more than half a billion dollars, according to a confidential EU report.

The more than 100-page study, drafted by the EU commission's anti-fraud unit, said much of the corruption stemmed from the agricultural sector, where 1,281 cases costing 348 million Euros were (\$460 million) reported by member states in 1994.

Losses due to fraud, which must be covered by the European Union, amounted to 446 million Euros last year. (AFP)

Austria Signs U.S. Aviation Pact

VIENNA—Austria, one of the European Union's newest members, defied the EU's Transport Commissioner on Thursday by reaching an "open skies" aviation agreement with the United States, an Austrian government official said.

Rejecting calls by Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock not to "negotiate, sign or initial" any such deals with the United States, Austria is the third European nation to reach an accord to liberalize civil aviation with the United States in the last three weeks. Belgium and Switzerland, which is not part of the union, have also signed agreements. (Reuters)

Mediterranean Officials Gather

BARCELONA—Mayors and representatives from more than 40 cities in the Mediterranean basin on Thursday debated key regional issues ranging from the war in Bosnia to health problems caused by uncontrolled migration.

Delegates to the Conference of Mediterranean Cities, organized by the Barcelona city government, sought ways to increase cooperation among cities in a multicultural, multilingual region with dramatically different levels of economic development. (Reuters)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Friday:

BRUSSELS: Meeting of research ministers on coordinating research and technological development among the EU member states and EU financial aid to researchers in the independent states of the former Soviet Union.

BIARRITZ, France: Informal meeting of EU ministers in charge of the internal market to discuss the system of sanctions for breaking European law.

BRUSSELS: Official visit of President Ion Iliescu of Romania.

MOSCOW: Official visit of the foreign affairs ministers of France, Germany and Spain, and Hans van den Broek, European commissioner for relations with Eastern Europe, to discuss the signing of a temporary accord with Russia, taking into account events in Chechnya.

ROTTERDAM: Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock meets with François-Xavier Ortoli, president of the European Center for Infrastructure Studies, and former president of the European Commission. Sources: Agence Europe, AFP.

Poll Points To Trouble For Belgian Coalition

BRUSSELS—An opinion poll showed a decline in support for the Belgian government on Thursday as a corruption scandal turned the nation's voters away from the center-left coalition.

The poll, published in four newspapers, said that support for the Flemish Socialist Party, one of the coalition partners, had slumped because of a bribery scandal in which the Italian firm Agusta allegedly gave kickbacks to the party.

Of 1,000 respondents, just 7.9 percent said that they would vote for the Socialist Party in May's general election, a drop of 4.1 percent from the 1991 poll.

The extreme rightist Vlaams Blok would win 8.3 percent, up 1.7 percent, according to the Field Research poll.

In addition, 49 percent said they did not want the same center-left coalition of Christian, Democratic and Socialist parties, against 47 percent who supported a status quo.

The bribery scandal grabbed the nation's attention again on Wednesday, when a retired air force general committed suicide after a television report implicated him in the Agusta bribe affair.

General Jacques Lefebvre, 64, was air force chief of staff in the late 1980s, when Agusta sold 46 helicopters to the army. His body was found in a hotel room.

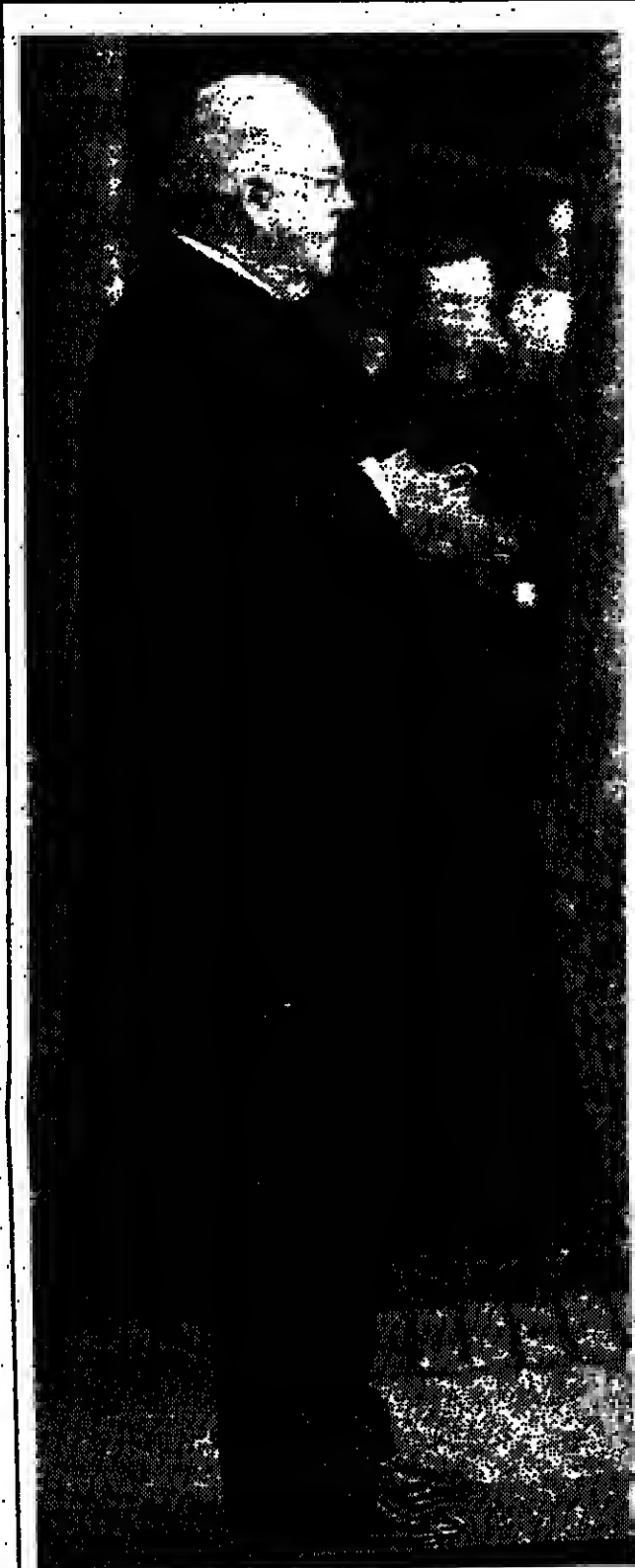
The general's death put more pressure on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's secretary-general, Willy Claes, who helped negotiate a helicopter contract that is at the heart of the affair.

The future of the four-party coalition was put into further doubt after Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene indicated that his Christian Democrats would not close the door to a partnership with the liberal opposition after the election.

Mr. Dehaene said in a taped television interview that he had worked well with the liberal parties in the past and could do so in the future.

"I have worked for seven years in the government with the liberals" in opposition, he said.

"We have always found solutions and I don't see how this should not be possible tomorrow."



BONN VOYAGE—Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai of Thailand, on a three-day visit to Germany, bowing Thursday at a ceremony with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Civilians Facing Starvation In Bihac Pocket, UN Warns

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ZAGREB, Croatia—Civilians trapped in the Bihac enclave of northwest Bosnia now face imminent starvation because of the total blockade on its food convoys by rebel Serbs and Muslims, a United Nations official warned Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees decided to cut off relief supplies to the rebels until the blockade was lifted.

"The situation in Bihac today is so critical that the people could start dying from tomorrow if we don't get our convoys in," said Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, an official for the UN agency.

Alemta Lisinski, an agency spokeswoman, said vulnerable groups such as the elderly, displaced persons and children "could really start dying" if regular aid convoys did not start getting into the enclave.

Muslim dissidents led by Fikret Abdic and breakaway Croatian Serbs have been fighting Bosnian government troops in the Bihac pocket.

A spokesman for UN agency

said that it had made the decision to halt relief supplies because Mr. Abdic's forces and the Croatian Serb leadership have been blocking most deliveries of aid destined for people in Bihac since May.

A UN representative went to Knin, the capital of the Serb-controlled Krajina region in Croatia, on Thursday to inform the Krajina Serb leader, Milan Martić, the spokesman said.

The UN agency's convoys will resume their deliveries "when the UN is allowed to have regular access to the Bihac pocket," he added.

The agency told Mr. Martić that it had no choice but to halt aid deliveries going to the UN protected area, which must cross Croat territory under the control of breakaway Serbs, and to Mr. Abdic's stronghold of Velika Kladusa, because "regular access to the Bihac pocket has not been guaranteed."

"The decision must not be interpreted as a reprisal on the

civilian population living in the UN protected area," the spokesman said.

He said, however, that "it was completely unacceptable to continue sending aid regularly to a region where the authorities ceaselessly obstruct the passage of humanitarian convoys destined for a neighboring region."

Since Feb. 28, Mr. Abdic's forces and Krajina Serbs have together prevented all forms of humanitarian aid from getting through to the enclave, where an estimated 200,000 people are showing signs of worsening malnutrition.

UN officials in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, also sharply criticized Bosnian Serbs for restricting access to three small government-held enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

"It is outrageous that medical supplies are being denied for the eastern enclaves," said a spokesman. He said there was a dire shortage of medical supplies there. (AFP, AP, Reuters)

Berlusconi Hails Election Pact

Agence France-Press

ROME—Silvio Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance on Thursday hailed its fresh electoral alliance with the Italian Popular Party as the birth of a new moderate center in Italian politics, on the lines of the governing Christian Democratic Union in Germany.

Mr. Berlusconi predicted that the agreement to fight regional elections on April 23 with the Popular Party (PPI) would also hold good for the next general elections, which he hoped will be held in June.

The surprise alliance with the PPI Christian Democrats has caused dismay in the ranks of the Democratic Party of the Left (the former Communists)

and the Northern League, which had hoped themselves for a deal with the Popular Party, which took 11.1 percent of the vote in the national elections in March last year.

But it is left-wingers within the Popular Party itself who have expressed anger and denounced the secrecy that led to the arrangement.

The accord was announced Wednesday evening by Mr. Berlusconi and the Popular Party leader, Rocco Buttiglione.

"Buttiglione has placed himself outside the party," a leading left-winger said.

The party leadership is meeting on Friday and its national executive on Saturday.

The Popular Party leader has said he will resign if he does not win approval.

Wednesday was a day of intense negotiations during which Mr. Berlusconi forced Mr. Buttiglione into a wider-reaching accord than had been envisaged.

Mr. Buttiglione had offered an electoral alliance between his party and Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia in certain regions, leaving the former prime minister's group to fight others along with the National Alliance of the rightist leader Gianfranco Fini.

Mr. Berlusconi refused, insisting the electoral alliance with the Popular Party be nationwide or not at all.

Dutch Right Tops Vote For Senate

Agence France-Press

THE HAGUE—Local elections in the Netherlands on Wednesday produced a big victory for the conservative People's Party for Freedom, whose leader has called for limits on services for refugees and illegal immigrants.

The People's Party, led by Frits Bolkestein, won 27.2 percent of the vote in elections for provincial delegates who will in turn elect the Dutch Senate.

The People's Party is a member of the three-party governing coalition. It also controls the ministries of Interior, Transport, Agriculture and Fisheries, which were widely praised for their performance during the February floods that forced the evacuation of 250,000 people.

In second place, with 22.9 percent, were the Christian Democrats, who were voted out of office at the national level last May. They were followed by another member of the governing alliance, the Labor Party of Prime Minister Wim Kok, which won 17.1 percent.

The third coalition party, the left-wing Democrats 66, won only 9.2 percent of the vote. Analysts said it had been punished by voters for failing to fulfill promises to reinstate Dutch political democracy.

Deputy Prime Minister Denies Role in Spain's Fund Scandal

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID—Deputy Prime Minister Narciso Serra on Thursday denied court testimony by the former Civil Guard chief Luis Roldán that he had abused covert Interior Ministry funds.

Mr. Serra told Spanish national radio he had no involvement with a report allegedly prepared by a U.S. detective agency on the former banker Mario Conde and financed with the secret funds.

Mr. Roldán alleged that Mr. Serra had ordered him to commission the report.

"What I know about the report is what I have read in the newspaper," Mr. Serra said.

Mr. Roldán made the allegation in National Court testimony on Wednesday, nine days after he was extradited from Laos following a yearlong manhunt across four continents.

The first civilian head of Spain's paramilitary civil guard fled the country last April while under investigation for embezzlement.

Mr. Roldán's testimony appeared to be a first step in making good on threats he made while on the run that if tried, he would implicate a wide range of senior officials of Prime Minister Felipe González's government in corruption cases.

The investigating magistrate, Baltasar Garçon, called Mr. Roldán for questioning on Wednesday in connection with the so-called Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups, or GAL, which killed more than 20 alleged collaborators of the Basque separatist group ETA in the mid-1980s.

The jailing of four high-ranking former police officials in connection with the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups has

created one of the most damaging political scandals that Mr. González has faced in 12 years in power.

Mr. Roldán was the central government's top official in the Navarre region, bordering the Basque region, when Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups was active in 1983. He headed the Civil Guard from 1986 to 1993.

On Thursday, Spanish press reports, quoting anonymous judicial sources, said Mr. Roldán had implicated former Interior Minister José Luis Corcuera and his counterterrorism chief, Rafael Vera, in illegal use of the ministry's covert funds.

Mr. Roldán is expected to be tried on up to seven corruption charges in a separate case involving alleged skimming of covert funds and kickbacks on construction contracts for Civil Guard barracks. (AP, Reuters)

Bishop Disavows Anti-Semitic Bible

The Associated Press

PARIS—A Roman Catholic bishop said Thursday he has ordered the recall of all copies of a new Bible portraying Jews with derogatory stereotypes.

Jean-Charles Thomas, bishop of Versailles, conceded that the "Bible for Christian Communities," for which he wrote the preface, had an "anti-Semitic aspect."

Some 60,000 copies of the Bible have been sold in France and Belgium since it was published in May 1994. Written in simple language, the Bible is the work of Bernard Hurnait, a missionary based in Chile, who planned to use it to combat the growing appeal of sects among the poor.

According to the text, the Jewish people killed Jesus Christ because they "were not able to control their fanaticism." The Bible also reduced Jewish customs and rituals to "folklore duties involving circumcision and hats."

Castro to See Mitterrand

The Associated Press

PARIS—President Fidel Castro of Cuba, in a rare social visit to a major Western leader, will be the luncheon guest Monday of President François Mitterrand.

It will be the first official visit to France by Mr. Castro. Cuba's leader since he led a communist revolution to victory in 1959.

In this Saturday's

MONEY

Pension Funds

Private pensions in an ageing world

Herald Tribune

Don't miss the upcoming Sponsored Section on

DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA

See the Monday, March 13 edition of the newspaper.

Herald Tribune

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

And the Next Mexico?

While the U.S. Congress vehemently debates the American plan to rescue Mexico and whether President Bill Clinton has done the right thing, another large question looms. What about the next Mexico? What if another large country, important to its neighbors and trading partners, should fall into a currency crisis? That question is on the agenda for the coming meeting, in Canada this summer, of the seven big industrial democracies. They alone can answer it, and they haven't got a lot of time. While the Mexican rescue was unquestionably necessary, it has been a hasty and ad hoc operation that does not provide a good model for the next time.

For one thing, the continuing wrangling over it in Congress is vitiating the effect of the rescue, which is supposed to restore confidence. For another, the administration, in its efforts to defend its plan at home, has been emphasizing in great detail all the conditions that it has imposed on Mexico and the rigor with which it intends to enforce them. That invites a nationalistic reaction in Mexico and creates an atmosphere in which everything that goes wrong in the Mexican economy is immediately blamed on the overseas in Washington.

And yet the alternative to this rescue plan, whatever its shortcomings, was to do nothing. That would have been much

worse. The world has tried that option. In the 20 years after World War I, the governments of the rich countries generally declined to work together and instead let matters take their course. It was an experiment in irresponsibility, and the result was, to put it mildly, unsatisfactory. At the end of World War II, the Allies established the International Monetary Fund to avoid a repetition of that experience. The IMF is now playing an important, although subsidiary, role in the Mexican case.

But the world is changing, and the foreign exchange markets have grown far beyond the control of even the most powerful countries' governments, as the current troubles of the American dollar illustrate. It is not clear that the IMF — which is, after all, only a bureaucratic agency — can ever be endowed with sufficient financial and political muscle to intervene effectively in a situation like Mexico's. A reinforced IMF is part of the solution. But it will be effective only if the world's great economic powers, which run the IMF, can get together on plans for the next emergency. In that respect, Mexico's distress may have done a service. It has dramatically reminded other and stronger countries of the immense damage that a full-blown currency crisis can leave behind it.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Arming Central Europe

The Clinton administration wants new markets for American-made arms, and is looking for them in all the wrong places. Instead of trying to limit arms trafficking around the globe, it is now ready to make sales to former Soviet bloc countries. That is the message of the administration's disappointing new policy on arms sales.

The policy would permit the sale of sophisticated weapons like F-16s and Abrams tanks in 10 markets formerly monopolized by Moscow: the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Baltic republics, Albania and even Bulgaria and Romania. With their economies in had shape and no threat from neighboring Russia imminent, the last thing these struggling nations need is expensive new weapons.

Central Europe's armed forces have been Soviet-recruited, Soviet-trained and Soviet-equipped. As the region's economies shrivel and defense budgets shrink, officers are rewarded with promotions instead of higher pay, leaving a command structure top-heavy with Soviet-era brass operating largely beyond civilian control.

These forces need to be reduced, retrained and infused with new recruits before they are rearm.

The American interests ostensibly served by arming the Central Europeans

include increased access and influence, having others pick up a share of defense costs, and "interoperability," the Pentagon term for making foreign forces compatible with NATO forces.

While the countries might benefit from communications gear that allows them to talk to NATO without Russian eavesdropping, they can do without new fighter planes. Central European troops can also train to use American arms in peacekeeping operations, as other countries do, without having to buy them.

The Central Europeans cannot afford to maintain the weapons they have. Central Europe is far from providing a potentially lucrative market for American manufacturers. The only ways Central European countries could acquire American arms would be if the Pentagon transferred them free of charge, sold them at deep discount or had them paid for with American aid. Arms deals can also be negotiated on concessionary terms, backed by loan guarantees. To its credit, the administration is not seeking additional loan guarantees, but it could be doing a lot more to discourage subsidized sales at taxpayer expense.

The United States should be limiting, not promoting, the sale of arms, particularly to countries that do not need and cannot afford them.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Leave It to the Courts

The House of Representatives continues to duck its responsibility and send the Senate what amount to campaign slogans in the guise of legislation. Even some supporters concede that the measures are too raw to be enacted in their present form. The takings bill that the House passed last week is another example.

The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." But what constitutes a taking? That is the question that has preoccupied the courts over the years.

Governments at every level, state and local as well as federal, are constantly taking actions that affect the possible use and value of private property. Sometimes the actions raise the value — choosing a particular spot for a freeway interchange, for example, or diverting water to help develop an arid area. Other times, by inhibiting use, they reduce the value. For fear of hobbling government in the pursuit of valid public purposes, the courts have generally said that a partial loss of value by itself is not enough to constitute a taking. There has to be more to warrant compensation. The courts engage in a kind of balancing act: How great was the loss, for how important a public purpose, and what were the reasonable expectations of the owner when he bought the property?

The House bill would override this careful standard, tear it up and toss it out. The original version said any property holder who suffered a loss of value above a certain threshold by virtue of federal regulation was entitled to compensation. The cost would be enormous; the government would in many cases be paying people and companies to stop doing things — polluting the air, destroying streams — inimical to the pub-

lic interest; and the likely effect if not intent would be to shut down a lot of federal regulation.

In response to objections such as these, the sponsors narrowed the measure to apply just to regulations concerning wetlands, certain western water and endangered species. Why it should apply just to these and not to other statutes they never made clear, except that for these they had the votes.

Critics offered amendments. Surely the sponsors didn't mean that a property holder should be compensated if the government decided on environmental or some other grounds to reduce the amount of valuable water it was willing to sell him — but it turned out that the sponsors did mean that. They also defeated an amendment to the effect that property holder A ought not be compensated for a regulation meant to protect the fair market value of adjacent homes owned by B, C and D. A Republican critic, John Edward Porter, said the bill would create "a new entitlement" for property holders that would cost so much "that no Republican ought to support it," but 205 did, and the legislation passed, 277 to 148.

There is said now to be a risk that it or something like it will be offered as an amendment to another bill, without benefit of hearings, on the Senate floor. We hope not. Maybe there are some changes that can usefully be made in takings law, or in the takings rules with regard to certain statutes that can be shown to have had particularly harsh effects. But the courts have created a better balanced system over the years than some of the rhetoric surrounding this issue would suggest, and Congress should approach it with great care.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

For the Dollar, No Bottom in Sight and Nothing to Do

By Rudiger Dornbusch

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — There is great excitement about the dollar having passed historic lows against the yen and the Deutsche mark. Three questions seek answers.

Are there plausible reasons for the deep dip, or is this just another instance of markets going on a binge? That is, do fundamentals support a deeply discounted dollar? Yes, and more on this below.

Second, where is this going to end? Are we about to see a bottom, or is there a lot

To have upside potential the dollar must, of course, steadily fall, and even quite a bit.

more to come? Answer: No bottom yet!

So should policymakers passively stand by or is there a role to be played? Here the answer is squarely "Hands off!"

The dollar's decline comes as no surprise. The exact timing and the precise magnitude are news, of course, but not the basic fact of a dollar on the slide.

Four factors are behind the decline, and when they all align, as is the case now, the pace can get fast and the decline major.

The first is that in the last quarter of a century the dollar has steadily declined against the mark and the yen. Inflation differentials, differentials in productivity growth and very different attitudes toward deficits are the explanation. These underlying trends continue, and therefore, on average, we should expect the dollar to keep doing the same.

The prospect of a need for trend depreciation is also emphasized by the

persistent U.S. current account deficit.

Investors need to be paid to accept increasing exposure in U.S. assets. Either they get high and rising interest differentials in the United States, which is not the case, or the dollar has to come off enough to gain an upside potential. To have upside potential it must, of course, steadily fall, and even quite a bit.

The second factor is the current situation in Germany and the United States. In Germany the wage bargaining suggests that inflation may have near-bottomed and the Bundesbank accordingly is likely to raise rates. In the United States the soft landing scenario is widely believed, and the chances of rate increases have become minor.

The relative tightening in Germany supports the strengthening of the mark. U.S. and German inflation rates are not that different, but in Germany the prevailing level is unacceptably high, while in the United States it is seen as blissfully low. That is why the mark is on the rise.

Third, fiscal policy differences support the mark. Germany is on the path to sharply cutting budget deficits, while in the United States rejection of the balanced budget amendment highlights a complete unwillingness to do much about deficits, now or later.

The fourth factor supporting the mark's rally is that investors need not fear punitive intervention or a surprise shift in monetary policy.

In Germany, "internal stability before external stability" guarantees that the Bundesbank will not shift to a strategy of

low interest rates to unhook the mark's rise. In the United States, the delight with a soft landing strategy, increasingly apparent and successful, clearly means that the Federal Reserve is not in a position to make a recession "just" to strengthen the dollar. Nobody in America cares about the dollar, and everybody agrees not to have a recession.

In the same way, there need not be fear about massive intervention. Germany does not believe in it unless it is backed by changes in monetary policy, and Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin has made enough money on the other side of the street to know that intervention does not accomplish much. Thus, speculators can feel safe piling into the Deutsche mark. Nobody will jump out of the bushes to hit them with a surprise.

There is a good dollar-mark story, but how does Japan fit into all of this?

In the past there has been a high correlation in dollar-mark and dollar-yen exchange rate changes. When the mark goes up, the yen goes up. We don't have to listen to the details. If markets believe that the mark will rise, they immediately trade the yen in the same direction, and they will rarely be wrong.

This time, the mark has had the story and the yen has taken the ride. In the past, for example during U.S.-Japanese trade talks that translated into a yen rally, it was the other way around.

Among the reasons for a weak dollar I do not include Mexico. If you are looking for trouble spots, ask yourself who is more bankrupt, Mexico or Japan's banking system. The answer is unambiguous.

Or ask who had the potential for more trouble among its neighbors — Germany

next to Italy (with a public debt about to bounce) and Greece and Spain and a lot more, or the United States with Mexico, which admittedly is a mess? Mexico is a sideshow in the dollar issue.

Is there anything policymakers can and should do in this situation of seemingly endless dollar decline? There is nothing they can or should do in Germany or the United States.

In Germany there is no reason to lower rates; in the United States there is no reason to raise rates. German policy on the budget is right; U.S. budget policy is too complacent, but it is in the hands of Congress and far beyond the reach of the administration.

Authorities should maintain orderly markets, but there is little purpose in setting targets and defending them halfheartedly. Surely the U.S. Treasury is not looking for more scars, with Mexico already a terrible lesson in defending the indefensible.

Is there room for a policy response in Japan? Yes. Japan could cut interest rates toward zero. (In America they were virtually zero in the 1930s.) Besides solving banking problems and helping recovery, that would surely contain the yen zoom and stabilize the Deutsche mark. Is that likely to happen? Surely not.

The Bank of Japan probably thinks big inflation is around the corner once again, deflation notwithstanding. With so many hang-ups in its central bank, Tokyo deserves an overly strong yen.

The writer, Ford International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

The Noisy Foreign Policy Debate in America Is Dangerously Fuzzy

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The debate on America's role in the world is gathering steam, but it makes a shrill and sometimes hollow whistle.

Other countries ask with concern if the United States is withdrawing — or, more ominously, some are preparing to seek advantage in what may become newly available space.

And yet, pretty much across the spectrum of American opinion there is a call for the United States to be robustly assertive of its "national interest." The trouble comes in defining it. The definition gets fuzzier the closer the speakers get to specifics.

In his recent foreign policy speech, President Bill Clinton appealed above all for the kind of bipartisanship that prevailed at the end of World War II, in the period of organizing policies and institutions that Dean Acheson called "the creation."

Administration views and the Republican leadership's response were laid out in more detail in the new issue of Foreign Policy magazine by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Senate Majority leader Bob Dole. There was some harsh sniping here and there, but beneath the polemics there is a remarkable parallel in what the two sides say is essential.

President Clinton warns against the "ripple of isolationism" that he sees emerging from both left and right.

Mr. Dole speaks out against those "on the left who believe America will corrupt the world and on the right who believe the world will corrupt America." But, he says, "the fact is that America must remain firmly engaged in the world. If we do not protect

our interests, no one else ... will do the job for us."

Mr. Christopher lays down four guiding strategic principles: "American leadership, productive relations with the world's most powerful states, lasting institutions, and democracy and human rights." The United States will try to work with other powers, he says. But "when we disagree, we will vigorously defend our interests and our principles, and we will not countenance any notions of spheres of influence."

Mr. Dole's definition is not quite so global, but he covers all the main requirements: preventing any power's domination of Europe, balance of power in East Asia, security and stability in the Western Hemisphere, access to resources (especially Gulf oil), free trade and access to markets, and protecting U.S. citizens and property overseas. And he lists "core ideals," including freedom, democracy and the rule of law, which American foreign policy must promote.

So what's the argument? There is some opposition on the fringes. For example, an analyst from the conservative Cato institute writes at length that Gulf policy is all wrong because there is no threat of loss of oil supplies and neither regional "stability" nor local nuclear weapons (Iran or Iraq) would hurt "U.S. security." Few would agree.

Even with regard to the much maligned United Nations, where Mr. Dole inveighs against "subcontracting American foreign policy and subordinating American sovereignty," the argument is

more stance than substance. The Clinton administration is not giving anything away that Mr. Dole wants done in Washington.

The difference is primarily in tone, whether to sound warm-handed or two-fisted, reassuring or demanding. The emphasis shifts from negotiating to proclaiming, but there is not much distance between the amount of sacrifice and responsibility that the two sides urge to make sure America leads.

The purpose is essentially to

draw lines for the American political battle and make them look as clear as on domestic issues. But it is unfortunate, and can be seriously misleading.

China, for example, assiduously building a blue water navy, is talking about a western Pacific without the United States, and France is pushing furiously for trade with Iraq (as well as Iran) on the expectation that the United States will renounce UN embargoes. The notion that America doesn't care and will soon go home can cause a lot of trouble. Washington's apparent indif-

ference (on both sides of the political divide) to the weakness of the dollar compounds the difficulty. The United States will not be strong if the dollar stays weak, loses its role as the currency of trade and refuge.

There is an underlying change of focus from global military politics to geo-economics, but it has not overturned the sense of America's basic interests and the kind of world it wants to shape. The noise is confusing Americans as well as friends and adversaries. But there is less there than meets the ear.

— Flora Lewis.

Toward Moscow Clinton Is All Thumbs

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — In our last episode, we discussed President Bill Clinton's passive Weltanschauung, a "worldview" that confines what was once America's diplomatic freedom of action to the slow convoy of unilateral consensus.

Today we seize another long German word: Clinton foreign policy lacks *Fingerspitzengefühl*, that combination of surefootedness on slippery slopes and sensitivity to nuance familiar to mountain goats, safecrackers and statesmen.

How do you deal with a Russian leader growing more woefully autistic even as his nation becomes dominated by a mafia-military complex? The murder of the television newsmen Vladimir Litvinov is leading to a suspension of civil liberties in the name of "right and order" — which some suspect was the purpose of the murderers.

Must the U.S. president embrace Boris Yeltsin, as George Bush clung to Mikhail Gorbachev, long after his popular mandate has vanished?

Granted, President Yeltsin was "democratically elected." But does this mean that Mr. Clinton walls himself off from Russia's democratic opposition?

These questions gain urgency as President Clinton must decide whether to visit Moscow, as promised, to celebrate the golden anniversary of victory over Hitler — while Boris Yeltsin's forces continue to obliterate Chechnya.

Last week the most popular political figure in Russia visited the United States to get acquainted with the foreign policy leadership. He is Grigori Yavlinsky, 42, a market economist whose bloc has 8 percent of the seats in Parliament. He is building a national party to challenge Mr. Yeltsin next year, if elections are held.

You might think this is a man that the president of the United States would want to meet. But Mr. Clinton is leery of doing anything to upset Mr. Yeltsin.

Defense Secretary William Perry, of all people, was assigned to meet Mr. Yavlinsky. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott could spare only 15 minutes before handing him off to a functionary in the Executive Office Building.

A president with Fingerspitzengefühl might have handled the opportunity this way: A National Security Council staff member would have brought him over to the White House basement to drop in on Tony Lake or his deputy, then the president would stick his head in the door and say hello; they would talk as long as they liked in the hallway.

No photo op, neither a secret visit nor a scheduled appointment. No offense could possibly

be taken by Boris Yeltsin. But the president, face to face with an outspoken Russian opponent of the war on Chechnya, could have asked: Would it help or hurt the cause of democratic reform if I went to Moscow on V-E Day?

Had he done so, Mr. Clinton would have heard firsthand from Mr. Yavlinsky what he may or may not have been advised through the fuzzy filter of advisers: Do not go to Moscow if it means you will stand there merely as Mr. Yeltsin's friend, uttering platitudes together about Allied cooperation in World War II.

But do go to Moscow if Mr. Yeltsin understands that you will directly address the Russian people on television about (1) the America's disapproval of the Chechnya destruction and (2) U.S. support of democratic reform and an honest count in coming Russian elections. It is not "talking sides" to speak out about what America stands for.

But Mr. Clinton is insulated from such unvarnished input. It might upset Boris.

Really? The Western leader closest to Mr. Yeltsin is Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. This Thursday morning Mr. Kohl was receiving Mr. Yavlinsky in Bonn, with photographers present. The unprecedented opening to the Russian opposition — on Mr. Kohl's initiative — should be avidly covered in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Simultaneously, Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, was to be meeting Mr. Yeltsin in the Kremlin with other foreign ministers, before returning to Bonn to meet Mr. Yavlinsky on Friday.

Contrast the Kohl and Clinton approaches to the Yeltsin problem. The German shows friendly flexibility while the American is frozen in fear of offending. Bill Clinton shows all thumbs while Helmut Kohl exhibits Fingerspitzengefühl.

The New York Times.

Social Development With Band-Aids?

By Perdita Huston

WASHINGTON — Irema began cutting sugar cane at age 11. Now a middle-aged farmer, migrant to an Amazonian settlement, she tells how she raised four children alone when her husband "moved on."

Asked who had been most influential in her life, she answered, blandly, "Poverty."

"Poverty is the best teacher. It teaches you to look beyond the obvious to find solutions." World leaders gathered in Copenhagen this week for the World Summit for Social Development might want to reflect on Irema's observations.

Their agenda intends to address the social wounds of this end of century: the global trends of increasing poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Because few among them have had the benefit of Irema's reality training, they are adopting a Band-Aid approach. The interventions needed for a cure to the social ills of our time are not up for discussion.

Twenty percent of the world's population attends Irema's poverty school. The great majority of its pupils are women and their children. One quarter of the world's households are headed by women. Most are not just women-headed households but, as in Irema's case, male-abandoned households — another term for social disintegration.

"Moving on" has become a way of life for nearly 100 million women and men in the migratory search for employment. Families everywhere are at the mercy of fluctuations in employment, capital availability and decisions made by well-paid, well-educated experts who have never set foot in the primary school of the have-nots.

They, too, miss the obvious.

How can a summit for social development hope to address poverty, unemployment and social disintegration as isolated phenomena? Without proper analysis of the steamrolling international financial system, while touting a "free" market economy, transnational corporate sovereignty and structural adjustment? Without assuring democratic decision making and capital for the poor?

Is the obvious so invisible? Economic policy of the past 15 years, imposed by the IMF and the World Bank and backed by the U.S. Treasury, has imposed a model which stresses opening economies to foreign investment and building export markets to the detriment of small and medium-sized producers for local needs. Instead of producing food, Malawi produces tobacco — and Irema raises beef.

This is not a development model. On the contrary, it favors large businesses, drains capital from small producers and is unsuited to fledgling national economies that are not yet strong enough to compete in the international market.

Capital and credit facilities for the poor diminished, resulting in today's reality. Poverty has increased, as have the gaps between haves and have-nots, within and among nations.

Women are the majority of the world's poor. Many economists recognize that if it were not for women's efforts to compensate for erosion of social services due to structural adjustment programs, the concern of the social development summit would have been social chaos.

not the euphemistic notion of "integration."

The Copenhagen meeting is starting a debate that is long overdue. It is a laudable attempt to put social issues on the international agenda. But the fundamental causes of poverty and unemployment or the resulting social ills — the skewed international economic environment — is not challenged.

Temporary fixes, Band-Aids and Scotch tape are the solutions proposed. But the people of Chiapas, in Mexico, have given us a warning: The era of Band-Aids is over.

Women are watching the Copenhagen debates in preparation for another meeting, the Fourth World Conference on Women, due in Beijing in September. There an "agenda for equality" will be discussed, based on the belief that only a transformation of relationships between men and women, at all levels of decision making, will enable the world to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The Band-Aid approach is no longer acceptable for the poor — or for half the world's people, its women. Women no longer agree to be victims of others' disregard or beneficiaries of others' benevolence. They intend to be full partners in economic, political and social decision making in the next century.

For those who would listen to them, they point out that the very fact that a summit on social development is needed is eloquent proof that the past is no model for our future.

The writer is preparing a book of interviews with families in 12 countries around the world. She contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Ready or Not, Taiwan Faces a Time of Jarring Change

By Philip Bowring

TAIPEI — The time is approaching for action, not just words, in relations across the Taiwan Strait. The convergence of three events is forcing both sides to address realities that cannot be avoided, however comfortable it may be just to let rhetorical dances continue. They are: the succession in China, the first direct presidential election in Taiwan, scheduled for early next year, and the reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese rule, now two years away.

An eight-point statement of policy on Taiwan by President Jiang Zemin of China, made on the occasion of the Lunar New Year, has the people of Taiwan expecting major developments. His remarks could be seen as merely an extension of China's two-track policy on Taiwan. He combined appeals to ethnic solidarity and an offer of an investment-protection agreement with threats about the consequences of "conspiring with foreign powers" to divide China.

There were appeals for closer economic and cultural links, and at the same time, military developments clearly intended to intimidate Taiwan.

But on balance, Mr. Jiang's statement is seen as conciliatory. Pro-unification voices in Taiwan are urging a quick and positive response.

Prime Minister Lien Chan has reacted anxiously, and the opposition Democratic Progressive Party views Mr. Jiang's comments with suspicion. No one expects that President Lee Teng-hui will be able to visit the mainland, as suggested by Mr. Jiang, in an "appropriate capacity." But coming at a time of transition, Mr. Jiang's remarks are viewed, for the most part, as a cause for some hope.

Mr. Jiang may have been speaking more for domestic than Taiwanese consumption. His Lunar New Year speech, a major statement of foreign policy, underlined his claim to be the country's new leader, the ultimate policymaker. Yet, it was ambiguous enough to allow less conciliatory interpretations, should forces within the party and military that favor a harder line toward Taiwan (and by extension toward the United States) gain influence.

It has also served to underline the problems of Taiwan's own two-track policy — on the one hand pressing for international recognition of the de facto existence of two Chinas and "building up its defense capability," on the other, adhering to the principle of reunification and developing commercial and other ties with the mainland, which now takes some 24 percent of its exports.

Taiwan continues to resist direct trade and transport links with the mainland, holding out for concessions from Beijing on

enhance its international status.

Major changes announced recently include easing restrictions so that foreign portfolio investors can own up to 12 percent of local companies and approving an offshore issue of Taiwan dollar-denominated bonds.

Yet without a modicum of goodwill from the mainland — which will require direct links — it will be unable to develop the regional role.

Whether or not it can become an alternative to Hong Kong is debatable. It can claim a strong and separate currency, unlike the ersatz U.S. dollar that passes for an independent currency in Hong Kong. But it cannot do without a close relationship with post-1997 Hong Kong. It may claim that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is not the mainland, but it will still have to deal with mainland officials.

As for the mainland, its aim of bringing Taiwan within its embrace via trade and tourism is to be balanced with concerns that this merely strengthens Taiwan's economy and thus its ability to project itself as a de facto separate state.

For Taiwan's increasingly

high-tech economy, the mainland is a convenience (for cheap labor) and an opportunity (for investment), but not an absolute necessity.

Faced with a strong and assertive Taiwan, Mr. Jiang may indeed have been trying to draw Lee Teng-hui into some form of dialogue. He played up Chinese identity prior to the presidential election, which is likely to see Mr. Lee become the first directly elected president of any part of China. Mr. Lee has cleverly straddled the middle ground of politics, appealing to Taiwanese local sentiments without abandoning the Kuomintang's reunification principles.

Attitudes on Taiwan toward the mainland have softened. There is some hope that a post-revolution generation of leaders on the mainland will take a more pragmatic line. Mr. Lee may find it to his electoral advantage to move a little way toward accommodation by speeding up progress on direct links without compromising Taiwan's demand to be treated as an equal.

He may be less assertive about international recognition. That would be a relief to Beijing, which is worried about the impact of the new U.S. Congress

on triangular relationships. The Taipei government has been ill-treated by a United States obsessed with its China relationship. Nor is China's latest re-grabbing provocation in the South China Sea likely to help its diplomatic cause. But crude pro-Taiwan moves in Washington now might be counterproductive for the island and force an insecure Mr. Jiang to take a harder line. This would put the politics of reunification before the economics of cross-strait links, and make the Chinese army more conscious of its role of defender of national integrity.

The crucial next stage of the cross-strait relationship will be the April talks between Wang Daoban, head of the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, and C. F. Koo, head of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation. This will be the first top-level meeting between the two semi-official bodies in two years. It will indicate whether the confluence of three events will lead to more tension or pragmatic accommodation across the strait, matters vital not just for Taiwan but for regional security and the prosperity of Hong Kong.

International Herald Tribune.

Japan's Defense to the Death

By Denis Warner

MELBOURNE — If American commanders thought that the horrors of the fire bombing of Tokyo 50 years ago would break Japan's fighting spirit in the Pacific War, they were quickly proven wrong.

On March 10, 1945, the day after the first fire raid, the Japanese government announced the creation of a civilian special attack unit for the defense of the homeland by suicide actions. All males between the ages of 12 and 60 and all females aged 12 to 45 became liable to be called up for work in home defense and production.

The deputy minister for the 1945 JAPAN 1995

army told the Diet that every citizen would be assigned to suicide duty in the event of invasion. Special weapons were being produced for civilian use, he said. If need be, millions of people were to be armed with spears to form what Radio Tokyo, in a domestic broadcast, called a "cordon of steel."

The low-level incendiary raids by the American B-29 bombers started fires that burned for days. Nearly 84,000 people lost their lives in the inferno. The canals and the Sumidagawa were choked with those who had died in their waters, drowned, suffocated or boiled alive as the flames raged on, devouring not only homes and the people who lived in them, but the oxygen in the air.

Rescue workers found survivors walking along the charred roads, their faces blackened by the heat of the fires. One Japanese reporter said that on some broad streets, as far as he could see, the corpses of men, women and children lay in rows. Trapped by the flames, they had tried to escape by lying down as far from the blaze as they could get — in the center of the road.

Yet even this fiery warning did not deter the militarists who controlled Japan. They were resolute in the insane conviction that the spirit of the people would prevail against the might of approaching U.S. forces.

As early as January 1945,

the chiefs of the army and navy sections of Imperial Headquarters had reported to Emperor Hirohito their plan to make every sailor, soldier and airman a suicide weapon that would turn the tide of war.

Life had been hard before the fire raids. Now it became hell. People lived in cellars or shacks constructed from debris. They survived on ersatz foods. Sugar and beer were synthetic. Butter was made from silkworms. The lawns of the Tokyo Zoo became vegetable gardens, and rare wild animals were killed so that their cages could be used to raise rabbits, goats and pigs.

Teachers mobilized children to grow potatoes and other vegetables, unload trains, work in factories and act as janitors so that every able-bodied man and woman would be free to join the armed forces or take part in war production.

Shortly after the fire bombing, Rear Admiral Takajiro Onishi, the father of the kamikaze corps, told his pilots that America could not bear the loss of lives in the numbers that would be involved if every Japanese continued to fight to the death.

The "special" attacks, a euphemism for suicide assaults, should become an ideology, he said. Japan should be prepared to fight an endless war of attrition and, if necessary, lose millions of lives.

One extraordinary example of the High Command's decision to use its forces on improbable suicide missions followed within days of the Tokyo fire, when 24 bombers set off from Japan on a 1,360 mile (2,175 kilometer), one-way journey to attack American aircraft carriers at Ulithi atoll in the Caroline Islands in the Pacific.

Eight hours after takeoff, only 15 planes remained in flight. The success of the mission depended largely on arriving in daylight; instead they arrived after dark.

One pilot thought a coral reef was a ship. Four others, upset by the darkness, looked for targets on the nearby is-

land of Yap and crashed their planes there. Only one pilot showed what could be done.

He hit the aircraft carrier Randolph on the edge of the flight deck about 100 feet (30 meters) from the stern with two 500 pound (225 kilogram) bombs. They exploded in the hangar deck, causing more than 150 casualties, including 34 dead.

But in a herculean effort, the Randolph was repaired and returned to service less than a month later, and was able to rejoin the American fleet of Okinawa.

Meanwhile, Seabees were busy reconstructing Japanese airfields on the recently captured island of Iwo Jima. They would be used to provide fighter cover for the B-29s in their attacks on the Japanese homeland as well as sanctuary on the way back.

Thousands of crippled American planes, and more than 24,000 airmen whose lives might otherwise have been lost, landed there in the remaining months of the war.

Fire bombs continued to rain down on Japanese cities and towns, while the imperial army and navy prepared to launch their gigantic suicide offensive against U.S. forces steeling themselves for the invasion of Okinawa.

It becomes apparent, re-reading documents from the war archives half a century later, that the top Japanese military officers really did believe they could change the course of the war by the outlandish tactics they had in mind.

Yet they caused the emperor or enough concern to summon senior statesmen in turn and invite them to speak frankly about the situation.

No one told him that Japan should sue for peace.

There was no one with the foresight, authority or courage to tell the emperor and the Imperial General Headquarters that they had to escape from the inferno they had brought upon themselves. For this, Japan paid a terrible price.

The writer, who covered the war in the Pacific for Australian and British newspapers, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

For Taipei, a Warmer Hearing in the New Congress

By James A. Robinson

PENSACOLA, Florida — Conventional wisdom holds that the road to Taiwan's membership in the United Nations passes through Beijing. China can, of course, effectively veto Taipei's application to join the UN under any name.

Taiwan, the Republic of China or the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Leaders of the majority Republicans in the U.S. Congress evidently believe that they have some influence in this matter. Key figures in both the Senate and the House of Representatives have recently renewed support for Taiwan in several ways.

On Monday, 36 senators passed a resolution urging President Bill Clinton to let President Lee Teng-hui visit America this year. The United States, which recognizes China, does not have formal relations with Taiwan. Last year, President Lee was not allowed to leave his plane during a refueling stop in Hawaii.

The resolution Monday called on Mr. Clinton to let Mr. Lee visit Cornell University, his alma mater, in New York State this spring and, in September, to attend an annual meeting of the U.S.-Taiwan Economic Council, in Anchorage, Alaska.

One sponsor of the legislation, Senator Frank Mur-

kowski of Alaska, said that Taiwan should be rewarded by the United States for ending martial law, allowing a free press and legalizing opposition parties; instead, Taiwan was being treated "like an international pariah."

Earlier, Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, received the director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington. Senator Helms said he has long "resented" the way American foreign policy makers have treated Taiwan.

Newt Gingrich, speaker of the House, signaled his preferences by meeting Hsu Shueh, secretary of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang, when the latter headed the party's delegation to a prayer breakfast in Washington. Mr. Gingrich endorsed Taiwan's case to join the UN and said a way should be found to permit President Lee to visit Cornell.

Congress last year, in votes on riders and amendments to various bills, expressed widespread disagreement with the administration's reluctance to broaden U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Opportunities in Congress to show support for Taiwan will be great in the weeks ahead — once the House completes ac-

tion on the Republican-backed "Contract With America" and starts turning to other matters. There is much talk in Washington about the expected resignation of Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy from Beijing to another post. Such a move, and the nomination of his successor, would require confirmation by the Senate. In these proceedings, Senator Helms and colleagues of both parties will question U.S. policies on Taiwan and China.

Delays and half-steps by the Clinton administration in the last year have stimulated rather than satisfied congressional demands in this important area. The new Republican leaders will not be easily thwarted.

American support for early admission of Taiwan to the United Nations is unlikely in the near future. Efforts will be made, however, to help Taipei broaden its support among other nations.

Japan, for example, appears inclined to invite President Lee. He studied there as well as in the United States in his youth. Beyond such personal ties, Japan and Taiwan are important trading partners. Support for closer relations will gain ground in Tokyo when the Clinton administration, under pressure from Con-

gress, moderates its policy.

A U.S. shift could strengthen Taiwan's connection with South Africa. The government of President Nelson Mandela could be emboldened to stand fast for dual recognition of China and Taiwan rather than exchange its recognition of Taipei for formal relations with Beijing.

Such an arrangement would improve Taiwan's standing among democratizing nations and contribute to its overriding goal of breaking out of diplomatic isolation — one of the main reasons Taipei began its UN campaign two years ago.

While the United States cannot assure Taiwan a seat in the United Nations, it can promote the island's international stature and reward its progress toward democratization.

The writer, regents professor at the University of West Florida, is a long-time observer of Taiwan politics. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fulbright and the Iraqi Farmer

Regarding the editorial "Senator Fulbright's Legacy" (Opinion, Feb. 11).

When the late Senator William Fulbright was invited by the Iraqi government to visit Iraq in the mid-1970s, I had the honor, as an ambassador in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, to have been assigned to accompany him while he was in Iraq. In between official functions, Senator Fulbright expressed to me the wish to visit an Iraqi farm and to meet some Iraqi peasants and to see and discuss with them the crops they grew. Accordingly, I took him to an Iraqi peasant called Haji Jasssem who was a friend of mine and who, incidentally, possessed all the natural qualities of grace, character and intelligence which the classical Western travelers saw and admired in the Bedouin Arabs.

After exchanging greetings and courtesies, Mr. Fulbright visited the farm of Haji Jasssem and inspected his crops. We then all sat on the bank of the River Tigris, where the farm was situated, enjoying the refreshments which Haji Jasssem had provided for us. The following conversation took place between Senator Fulbright and Haji Jasssem, with myself as translator:

"Do you have any thieves in this area?" asked Mr. Fulbright.

"No," Haji Jasssem replied. "In the past we used to have thieves in the area because in the past committing such wrong acts as robbery was considered mainly. But things have changed and now it is considered shameful and unmanly to commit such acts and, therefore, acts of robbery have ceased to exist."

Mr. Fulbright turned to me and said, "You know, people go to war because they consider it a manly act, but the time will come when people throughout the world will change their attitude just as they did here regarding robbery, and we will consider waging war to be unmanly and therefore warfare could cease to exist."

I recall this conversation very vividly, even now, and I record it here faithfully.

It remains to be said that immediately after Mr. Fulbright left Iraq and returned to the United States, he sent three letters. One of them was to the then Iraqi foreign minister, thanking him for the invitation; it was about four lines in length. The second was to me and was double that length. The third was to the Iraqi peasant, Haji Jasssem, and it was much longer than the other two.

I write these recollections as both a testimony to the genuinely high humane qualities which the late Senator Fulbright possessed — and which, I am sure, had a lasting impact on all those who knew him — and as a tribute to his memory.

GAILAN MAHMOUD RAMIZ, Maifraq, Jordan.

Dresden: The Terrible Toll

As an American who lived in Germany a year and who has visited it several times, I want to compliment you for your coverage of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden.

Much of what I had intended to write was preempted by the comment from Donald Koblitz and Christian Habbe on the editorial page of Feb. 16 ("Dresden Wasn't Innocent, but Neither Was the Bombing of Its People"). They challenged the suggestion that Dresden, even if culpable of enthusiasm for the Nazis and of anti-Jewish atrocities before the war, deserved the fate it met. However, I wonder if the gravity of the bombing is apparent even from the articles you have published, as well as from the consternation the bombing caused in high circles of the Allied military command.

The "official" number of dead seems to come in recent articles at 35,000, though one of your writers mentioned that more had died. But the figures cited by German sources range from 60,000 to 250,000 dead. According to these statistics, there were 1,380,000 people in the city at the time of the bombing, of which 750,000 were refugees. Almost all the victims — women, children, old people — were burned to death. Very likely then, more died at Dresden than in any other single bombing raid of the war, including the raids on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The incendiary bombings against civilians leading up to the attack were strongly opposed by the Anglican bishops, who, after the bombing of Dresden, influenced the British government to re-examine its policy. In postwar statements the American government claimed it had long opposed the attack and only went along with the plan reluctantly and in a token way. Perhaps out of shame, in General Eisenhower's book "Crusade in Europe," published 12 years after the war, Dresden appears only as a name on a map.

Sadly, Dresden is still with us. When it comes to the bombing and extermination of civilians, even to what seems genocide, the end too often appears to justify the means, and the world looks on with indifference.

FREDERICK E. BRENN, Rome.

The Point Is Total Disarmament

Regarding "Indefinite Extension of the Nonproliferation Treaty Isn't a Sure Thing" (Opinion, March 1) by Shai Feldman:

The article does not address the real issue involved in convening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty renewal conference. Whether the conference succeeds or not in getting either an indefinite or a time-bound extension, it scuttles the ultimate issue concerning total disarmament. Ex-

tension would only perpetuate and legitimize the existing gap between the nuclear haves and have-nots, and thereby create a sense of discrimination.

Would extension ensure the overall global security environment? All indications, as well as the record of the last 25 years, show that there has been a substantial increase in nuclear arsenals and more states have acquired nuclear capability.

The conference could pave the way for a new international order; it calls for a bold initiative from the five nuclear-weapon states. Concrete steps in the direction of disarmament would receive unconditional support from all states. There is no use waiting for more "proliferation shocks."

H. C. SHUKUL, Gujarat, India.

Shareholders Are Fighting Back

Bravo to the shareholders of Morrison Knudsen who are suing "in an effort to deny Mr. Agee a generous severance package" (Business/Finance, Feb. 16). It's about time people stopped taking things lying down from corporations that reward executives, thereby making them irresponsible, with the prospect of "golden handshakes."

LOUIS BERMAN, Veyrier du Lac, France.

They Ought to Smoke Alone

Ellen Goodman (in "Critics of 'Health Nazis' Are Just Blowing Smoke," Opinion, Feb. 28), like Russell Baker in his column of last June 3, ignores an aspect of the argument which is, for many nonsmokers, the heart of the issue. Most of us couldn't care less if smokers killed themselves, nor are we paranoid (though there is evidence that we should be) about getting cancer from secondary smoke. For many, the issue is one of common courtesy. It boggles the mind to imagine the arrogance of an individual who assumes that he has the right to subject those around him to something as obnoxious as cigarette smoke.

Society has always had rules to prevent individuals from engaging in public activities that are inherently annoying to those around them. If we forbid the use of ghetto blasters on public buses and in restaurants because the music might bother the other patrons, what defense can there be for smokers? Modern music isn't half as annoying as cigarette smoke, and no one has ever shown it to be a health hazard.

Mr. Baker, in his article, made a blatant bid for "victimimized minority" status with his declaration that all that smokers want is to be left alone. If he really wants to be left alone, then alone is where he should smoke.

PATRICK LEACH, Aberdeen, Scotland.

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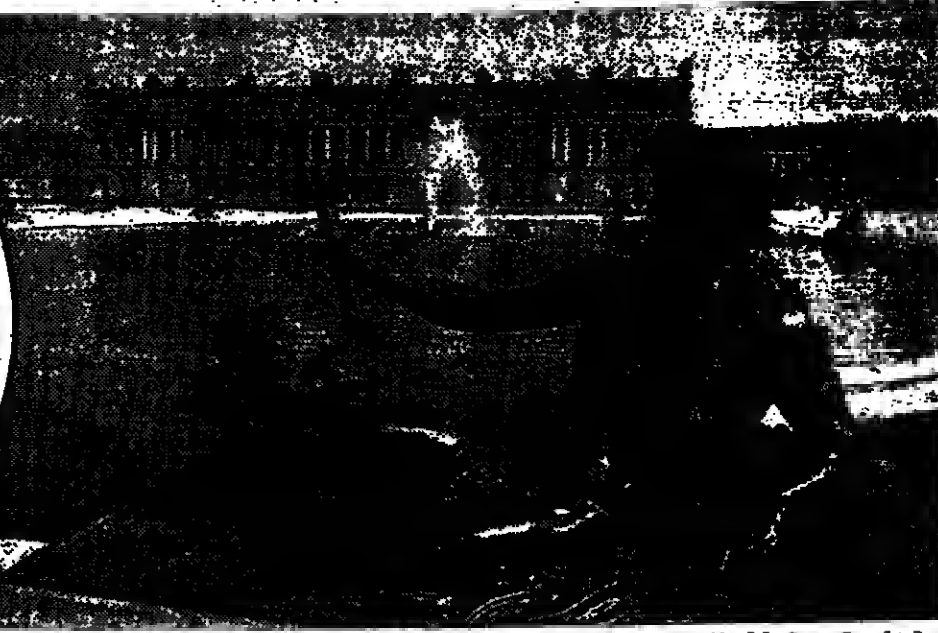
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Herald Tribune
 THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Splendid Mess: Can Versailles Be Proper Museum?



Clint Spivey/Photo-Fest, Paris; Leticia, Goussier

Man Bello, Goussier, Goussier Spivey

Paradoxically, the chateau of Versailles is far less open to the public now than it ever was under the Sun King, but this may change under an ambitious plan to bring the entire complex under one agency.

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

VERSAILLES, France — As a monument to the absolute power of kings, the palace of Versailles was over all that it was cracked up to be. As Benjamin Franklin said after a visit, it combined "a prodigious mixture of Magnificence and Negligence, with every kind of Elegance except that of Cleanliness, and what we call Tidiness."

Plus ça change. From an organizational point of view, the palace and its surrounding gardens and parks are a mess, with many organizations of state, ranging from the Ministry of Agriculture to the army, having overlapping responsibilities for various parts of it.

Paradoxically, Versailles is far less open to the public now, more than 200 years after a revolution swept away the monarchy—for a time, at least—than it ever was under the absolutist rule of the Sun King, Louis XIV, or of his successor Louis XV.

Under the great monarchs, foreign tourists and ordinary Frenchmen were allowed to stroll around the gardens and wander inside the palace to watch the king

and his relations leading their lives in full gaze of the public. Arthur Young, the English author of "Travels in France," noticed with amazement a couple of years before the Revolution that all manner of men wandered unchallenged into the king's apartment.

Horace Walpole noted, "In the colonnades, upon the staircase, nay in the ante-chambers of the palace and there, are people selling all sorts of wares."

Today, much of the chateau is off-limits to visitors. The National Assembly owns the entire north wing of the palace, which it has used only three times since 1990. It has 300 apartments for its officials and huge expanses of office space that it uses only to store furniture. The grand stables, big enough for 2,000 horses, are occupied by the headquarters of the 2d armored division, department archives and the leading department of the National Library.

And so it goes on. With more than 3 million visitors last year, parts of the palace were often inundated by crowds, while immense picture galleries with about 6,000 paintings stood empty for lack of guards.

All this may change under an ambitious plan to bring the entire palace, gardens, parks and even some land outside the

domain under one administration. The government was scheduled to announce plans this month for a "Grand Versailles" project under the authority of a single autonomous body. The model for this is the "Grand Louvre" project to expand and restore the Paris art museum.

The Versailles project is expected to take at least 20 years to fulfill. Jean-Pierre Babelon, the director of the palace and park, said it is too early to say exactly what it will entail or what it will cost.

The project envisages opening up picture galleries long concealed from general public gaze, fixing the palace roof and for the first time supplying electricity to the Petit Trianon, the exquisite miniature palace in the park and other outlying buildings.

The formal gardens and parkland are in need of replanting and restoration in keeping with the formal design of the landscape architect André LeNôtre. A storm in 1990, which toppled about 1,500 large trees, was a reminder of the fragility of the plantations. As a result, a whole area south of the palace has been replanted to recreate the kind of wooded labyrinth.

Echoing history, there are plans to fix the plumbing and get the fountains work-

ing again. This has been a perennial problem at Versailles, since there never was enough water to keep the fountains running for more than a couple of hours. When Franklin visited, the waterworks were as usual out of repair. There was once a grandiose plan to divert the Loire, until it was pointed out that rivers cannot be made to run uphill. Instead, servants had to run around the park every time the king took a walk, turning the fountains on and off so that at least he had the impression they were working all the time.

Louis XIV never thought of the practicalities when he set out to turn one of his father's relatively modest mansions into the grandest palace in Europe. He built it, the Duc de Saint-Simon said, "in the gloomiest and most thoughtless of places; without view, without woods, without water, without soil."

By bringing the entire vast estate under a central administration, the government hopes to restore some of the coherence and vision that made Versailles a model for great houses and palaces all over Europe.

There seems little hope of evicting the National Assembly, which has vague plans to build a museum to its own glory in the part of the palace it occupies. But

for a price, the army seems willing to move out.

The museum administration is trying to persuade the municipality of Versailles to get rid of the parking space in the Place des Armes and restore the palace's atmosphere of haughty aloofness from the town.

To make Versailles more attractive to visitors, there are plans to open up the picture galleries at last, and build bookshops, a document center, exhibition halls, restaurants and shops. There is talk also of a graduate school for 17th- and 18th-century studies, and a Viennese-style riding school in the small stables.

Versailles, the royal residence from 1682 to 1790, was stripped of most of its furniture, books and ornaments after the revolution, leaving echoing galleries and apartments filled only with memories and ghosts. But Napoleon thought it a palace fit for an emperor, and ensured that the fabric was well looked after, as did subsequent rulers.

In the 19th century, Louis-Philippe decided to turn Versailles into a museum dedicated "to all the glories of France."

To make grandiose picture galleries—those that are now closed to the public—he destroyed many of the exquisite small

apartments, cut pictures to size, stamped his monogram everywhere, and changed many important aspects of the building before completing the work for the museum in 1837. It was not until the early 20th century that Versailles found a curator, Pierre de Nolhac, gifted and sensitive enough to appreciate its special character.

With talk of turning the marvelous Loire chateau of Chambord into a sound-and-light show, there are obvious fears that the Grand Versailles project could also end up by turning the palace into a kind of theme park, although Babelon stresses that the whole point of having autonomous status is to prevent such a cultural catastrophe.

Leaving advice to posterity, de Nolhac warned that "the chimerical hope of restoring the past condition of a monument leads, in most cases, to its complete destruction."

"Let us rather enjoy what has survived," he said, "let us at all costs preserve everything that the touch of time has helped to beautify; let us respect the harmonious whole that it has created; and let us, by the help of the remains that are left, guess what the achievement of Louis XIV must have been in its magnificent completeness."

THE MOVIE GUIDE

Under

Directed by Shunji Iwai, Japan.

This short (47-minute) and strange film is about a couple living together. At first they are happy enough but soon, stimulated by her dental braces, she begins to bind everything in the room: fruit, books, her turtle. Taken to the doctor she is diagnosed as having an "obsessive knot-binding syndrome." Eventually she also ties herself up as well. Here, however, she asks his help—"please tie me up properly." He does so and, guess what: He ends tied up himself. Perhaps the film is an allegory—on married life, maybe. Or maybe not. As we watch their room turn into a bondage chamber, we begin to suspect that this might be soft-porn as well, with the minute but moneyed S-M crowd in mind. Yet, if so, the presentation is singularly

lary unsexy and it all evaporates anyway in surrealist gestures, grand set decoration and a plea to the audience to make up its own mind as to what it is all about. Strange.

(Donald Richie, IHT)

Uomini, Uomini, Uomini

Directed by Christian De Sica, Italy.

After more than two decades rich with success from screen and stage comedy, Christian De Sica tries to downshift into serious, socially aware cinematography. And he almost succeeds. "Uomini, Uomini, Uomini" (Men, Men, Men) is the story of a vibrant, loyal friendship between four homosexual men. Sandro (Massimo Ghini) is a television producer who discovered his homosexuality after having started a family.

Dado (Alessandro Haber) is a successful orthopedic surgeon. Tony (Leo Gullotta) is an exclusive women's tailor who lives with his possessive mother. And Vittorio (De Sica) is an architect to love with an associate who is about to be wed. Together, the four men gallivant through Rome, sharing adventures, practical jokes, and more than occasional disappointments. All four provide excellent performances, lending depth and texture to their characters and making them sympathetic. Ghini, the most macho of the group, is particularly intense. Yet as good as the actors are, they cannot compensate for a spotty, gag-driven script that despite three attentive rewrites still remains steeped in the predictable, stereotypical idiom of the modern, mindless slapstick so popular in mass Italian cinema. In the end,

the film is a series of vignettes in which the characters' growth is substantially limited. "Uomini, Uomini, Uomini" is an entertaining, enjoyable film, despite its lack of continuity. De Sica's direction is almost flawless, leading one to wonder what level of expression he might attain with a decent screenplay. (Ken Shulman, IHT)

Roommates

Directed by Peter Yates, U.S.

One look at the photograph on the cover of "Roommates" by Max Apple's book about life with his grandfather, and it's easy to see this story's appeal. There is Rocky, the author's curmudgeonly 5-foot-tall grandfather, glaring at the camera with a scowling pucker on his face. On his chest is an apron with cheery illustrations that would suit a nursery-school child. By his side is a tot who smiles happily despite the old man's gruff expression. Rocky's hands are messy. He appears to be making cookie dough. As the fond tale of a boy and grandfather whose odd-couple intimacy lasted until Rocky was 107, "Roommates" has stubbornly insistent charms. Homogenized

for the screen into a hokier Hollywood version (with a screenplay by Apple and Stephen Metcalfe), it still hangs on to its affectionate tone. It's Peter Falk whose expert crankiness makes that possible. Given the inevitabilities of the film's last reel, it was a slam-dunk to make Rocky lovable. Falk makes him likable, too. Imprisoned behind wizened, rubbery facial makeup, Falk still supplies a ambiguity that the rest of the film lacks. Of film, "Roommates" loses its real-life references (like those to the Vietnam War), pointlessly turns Rocky into a Polish Catholic (he was a Lithuanian Jew), converts a wasting disease into a convenient sudden accident and otherwise weakens a once vibrant story. The film counts entirely on Falk's crotchety wisecracks, but he often delivers. The film describes the give-and-take between Rocky and his grandson, who is called Michael (D.B. Sweeney). This is the kind of film in which Rocky gives the boy a microscope, and we immediately skip forward to the sight of grown-up Michael as a doctor, busy on emergency-room duty in television hotshot style.

(Janet Maslin, NYT)



Bob Marshall

Peter Falk and D.B. Sweeney in "Roommates," directed by Peter Yates.

In Peru, Where the Earth Meets the Sky

By Logan Ward

LIMA — With the greatest concentration of glaciers anywhere in the tropics, the Cordillera Blanca of northern Peru truly forms, in the words of the 19th-century Italian explorer Antonio Raimondi, "the meeting place of sky and Earth." Reassured by more than a year of relative peace in Peru, with the threat of Shining Path terrorism all but eliminated, my wife, Heather, and I recently spent a week trekking with a college friend, Alex Irvin, in the region, which is second only to the Himalayas for hikers.

Situated 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Lima within the Huascarán National Park, the Cordillera, a mostly granite range running 150 kilometers north to south, is cut perpendicularly by a series of deep, glacier-carved gorges. The straight, relatively flat corridors mean little up-and-down, excellent campsites, a water source never more than a stroll away, and around every corner a new glacier lake or snowcapped peak.

Also favoring the trekker is the tradition of the *arriero*, or donkey driver. In an area as remote as the Cordillera Blanca—where there are no shelters and few villages—burros make an otherwise exhausting struggle more pleasant. Along with a Spanish-speaking guide, we hired an *arriero* and his team of four burros and a horse to carry our gear and food for the seven-day hike.

Our jumping-off point was Huaraz, population 80,000, a sort of grubby Jack-

son Hole of the Andes, where an unlikely number of tourist agencies, souvenir saleswomen, money-changers and pizza joints line the main strip. We hired a van for the two-hour ride to the village of Cashapampa, where the trek would begin and where we met Freddy Velasquez, our young *arriero*.

Soon we were off, hiking ahead of the animals into the mouth of the Santa Cruz Gorge. Somewhere above its sheer rock walls, were snow and ice, but our view was limited to the bands of canyon that swallowed us as if we were tiny insects.

WE hired our guide, Damian Vargas, through an agency in Huaraz called the Casa de Guías. A mountaineer born and raised in Huaraz, Vargas led the way, naming various plants. Hundreds of rust-red, spiny-leaved bromeliads clung high on the canyon walls, almost as if they were scrambling to escape the villagers who cut their flowers every year for the Carnival.

For four hours we followed the rushing Santa Cruz River up a winding path, gradually gaining altitude and leaving the dry scrub behind. The gorge straightened, and we got our first glimpse of the peak of Taulliraju, a buttressed, rock-and-ice cathedral standing at the canyon's head.

As we pressed on the next day, the beauty grew more staggering. Where the gorge widened, sunbeams lit the blue ice of glacier walls. Occasionally, one of the hidden peaks would show its face between a cut in the high walls.

Our campsite that night and the next, a

meadow called Taullipampa encircled by at least six snow-clad giants, was the most breathtaking of the trip. The next morning we woke to find our water bottles icy and frost layering the ground.

After large helpings of eggs and pan-fried speckled trout, which Freddy had landed the day before in his cast net, we followed stacked cairns into an adjacent bowl, up to the base of Alpamayo. The plants at that altitude are mostly sharp, spiny, armored or stunted to survive the harsh wind and cold.

We struck out early on our fourth day for Punta Union. Approaching Taulliraju, its wall of glacier melting down into a turquoise lake, I saw the massive granite pass for the first time. Penetratingly sculpted stone steps wound in tight switchbacks up to a cut in the rock. As we ascended, in a slow but nontechnical trudge, the air grew thin, and a light flurry of snow dusted our wool caps and daypacks. The color of sky against granite was steel on steel. From the top, our view was amazing. To the west, the dry Cordillera

Negra, a smaller range that parallels the Blanca, sat like a shadow beyond the distant mouth of the gorge. To the east, Huaripampa Gorge and a whole new world of peaks and possibilities.

Among them was the possibility of rain. When we arranged our trek, we were taking our chances with the weather: The rainy season—from November to April—had just begun. The sunny first days of the trip, however, made us forget our fears, so that when the rain hit, we were prepared physically, but not mentally.

For the most part the trek was an isolated one. We had passed a few backpackers, the occasional shepherd and one old woman—bending under the weight of a brimming water pail—who scurried across our path to her stone shack. On our fifth day, before the afternoon rains began, we passed our first and only settlement, Colabamba, a village of subsistence-farming Indians.

The next day we were again straddling the Cordillera, this time facing west atop Portachuelo de Llanganuco, the pass that marked the beginning of the end of our journey. We could see Huascarán's looming crest and the emerald lakes below. It was all downhill from here.

Logan Ward, a free-lance journalist who lives in Quito, Ecuador, wrote this for The New York Times.

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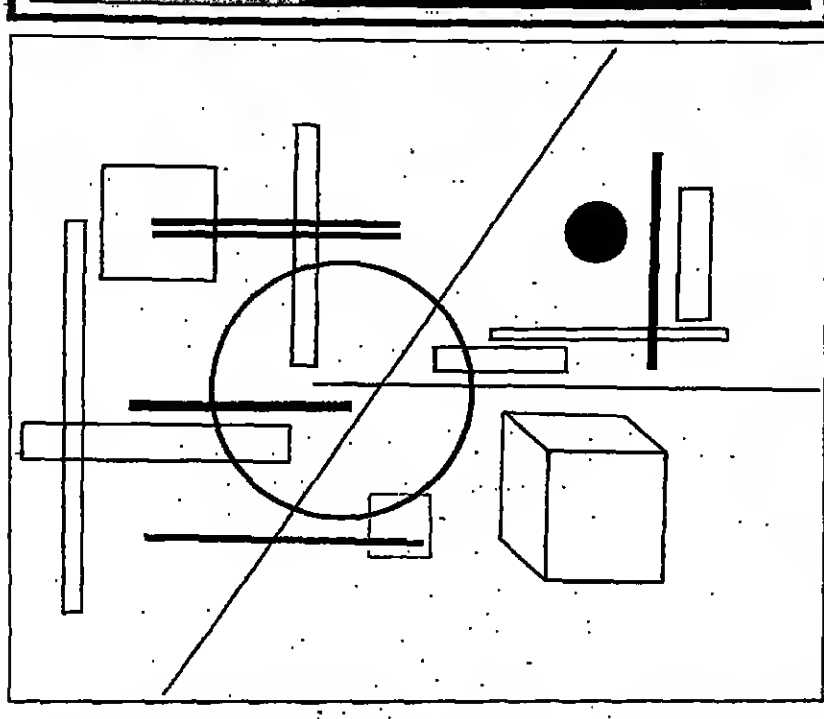
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LEISURE

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1995
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THE ARTS GUIDE



Left, art from Abram Chudnovsky's collection, in The Hague; right, work by Thomas Florschütz, in Frankfurt.

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Kunsthaus Wien, tel: (1) 712-0495, open daily. Continuing/To April 30: "Jean Dubuffet: Eine Retrospektive." 140 paintings, sculptures, drawings and collages covering the years 1919 to 1985.

BRITAIN

London
Imperial War Museum, tel: (171) 416-5000, open daily. To May 22: "After Auschwitz: Installations." Four posters artists from Europe and the United States explore the aftermath of the Holocaust, in large installations.
National Portrait Gallery, tel: (171) 306-0055, open daily. To June 22: "Gyorgy Gordon: Portraits and Figurative Work, 1956-1993." An exhibition of paintings and drawings celebrating the life, work and 70th birthday of the Hungarian painter, from his early Expressionist work to his solitary figures and self-portraits.

CANADA

Quebec
Musée du Québec, tel: (418) 643-2150, closed Mondays. To May 14: "Dieux Appelés." 88 works by the German photographer, taken over the past 30 years. Beginning with a period dedicated to the human body, the exhibition also shows Appel's interest in Venice, the poet Ezra Pound, and his current fascination with nature. The exhibition will travel to New York, New Orleans and Berlin.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague
National Technical Museum. To April 30: "Arthur Cotton Moore: Visions of the Future." Visions of the city of the future by the American contemporary artist suggest the development of traditional values, the development of international communication and the emergence of economic aggression. The exhibition will travel to Poland.

FRANCE

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: (1) 44-78-13-00, closed Tuesdays. To May 22: "Herzog and de Meuron." An exhibition dedicated to the Swiss architects who won the bid for the extension of the Tate Gallery in London. More than 30 projects are detailed with photographs, models, and floor plans.
Centre National de la Photographie, tel: (1) 52-76-12-31, closed Tuesdays. To May 15: "Sarah Moon." 150 photographs trace the evolution of Sarah Moon's work, from fashion photographs at the early stages of her career to travel images today.
Pavillon des Arts, tel: (1) 42-33-82-50, closed Mondays and holidays. To April 30: "Jeu de Nappes: Les Peintres se Mettent à Table." Fragments of tablecloths from a small Parisian restaurant that was the haunt of artists and writers during and after World War II. Several sketches,

CLOSING SOON

On March 12: "Man Ray." Serpentine Gallery, London.
On March 12: "Gary Hill." Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.
On March 12: "Monet: Late Paintings of Giverny from the Musée Marmottan." Museum of Art, New Orleans.
On March 12: "Argente pour l'Unité de la Plaine." Centre Culturel Sudois, Paris.
On March 12: "Fluxus." Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.
On March 12: "Ernst Nolde." Kunsthof am Bank Austria, Vienna.
On March 14: "Dennis Stock: Made in USA." Amerika Haus, Berlin.
On March 15: "Honoré Da Vinci als An-". Can Almirante, Barcelona.

GERMANY

Berlin
Deutsches Historisches Museum, tel: (30) 21-50-20, closed Sundays. To April 18: "Austreg Kunst 1949-1990." Forty-one art works commissioned by the East German government from 1949 to 1990.
Frankfurt
Schirn Kunsthalle, tel: (69) 29-88-82-11, closed Mondays. To April 30: "Ad Reinhardt." Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts aus der Deutschen Bank. In celebration of its 125th anniversary, the Deutsche Bank is exhibiting 200 works by artists such as Kandinsky, Klee and Gropius. Of special interest will be works from the early periods of these artists. The exhibition will travel to Berlin and Leipzig.
Hannover
Wilhelm-Busch-Museum, tel: (511) 71-40-70, open daily. To March 15: "Napoleon I. in der Deutschen Karikatur." Historical and allegorical

JAPAN

Tokyo
Hara Museum, tel: (3) 34-45-06-51, open daily. To June 11: "Warning." 45 works by 25 artists including Gilbert and George, Joseph Beuys, Tetsuro Kudo and Peter Kaser address crises confronting humanity. By portraying their political, environmental and psychological concerns for our times, the works serve as a warning for the 21st century. Also, to June 11: "Visions from Memory." This exhibition seeks to interpret memory according to three motifs: history, home, and tradition. The concept of the memory is explored through recollections of war, expressions of homage by one artist to another, and tradition interpreted as the memory of a race.

LUXEMBOURG

Château de Clervaux, tel: (352) 929-656, open daily. To Dec. 31: "The Family of Man." More than 35 photographs of the 1950s illustrate various aspects of the life of man from birth to education, love, children and work.

NETHERLANDS

The Hague
Het Paleis, tel: (70) 338-1111, closed Mondays. Continuing/To April 23: "Russische Avant-Garde 1900-1930." 40 paintings and 30 works on paper from the collection of the Russian physicist Abram Chudnovsky (1910-1985). Works by 40 artists, including Malevich, Chagall, Filonov and Rodchenko, document the diversity of Russian art in the early 20th century.

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NETHERLANDS

The Hague
Het Paleis, tel: (70) 338-1111, closed Mondays. Continuing/To April 23: "Russische Avant-Garde 1900-1930." 40 paintings and 30 works on paper from the collection of the Russian physicist Abram Chudnovsky (1910-1985). Works by 40 artists, including Malevich, Chagall, Filonov and Rodchenko, document the diversity of Russian art in the early 20th century.

SWEDEN

Stockholm
Nationalmuseum, tel: (8) 666-4250, closed Mondays. Continuing/To May 1: "Sittlich." A selection of still life works by artists from the mid-18th century to the present time. It includes "venetian" kitchen scenes by Zuccato and works by Chardin as well as by 20th-century artists, including Braque and Picasso.

SWITZERLAND

Geneva
Musée Barber-Mueller, tel: (22) 312-0270. Continuing/To Sept. 30: "Parure." Jewels and ornaments from African, Indian and Indonesian tribes and populations.

UNITED STATES

Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, tel: (213) 857-5000. To April 30: "The Prince of Persia." 80 prints, photographs, and etchings by the Pop artist who is best known for elevating his comic strip explorations of the human condition to high art.

UNITED STATES

New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3791, closed Mondays. To June 4: "Princely Patrons: Three Royal Persian Manuscripts." The manuscript, made for the Timurid royal house ruling in Iran in the 15th century, includes 18 miniatures.
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To May 23: "Bruce Nauman." A retrospective of all aspects of the experimental American artist's activity. Includes work in environments, video installations and sound pieces, using a broad range of mediums, such as neon, drawing, sculpture, photography, and word play.
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, tel: (212) 423-3840, closed Thursdays. To May 14: "Rosa Bonheur." Seventy paintings and a selection of drawings provide a retrospective of the American painter. Using optically dazzling stripes, nocturnal landscapes, and abstract compositions of dots, Bonheur celebrates nature and war, and reflects the uncertainty of our human condition. Also, to May 10: "Felix Gonzalez-Torres." Documents 10 years of the artist's career, beginning with his early photography, and ending with examples of his candy spills, public billboards and garlands of electric lights.

UNITED STATES

Washington
The Corcoran Gallery of Art, tel: (202) 638-1439, closed Tuesdays. To May 7: "Passionate Visions of the American South." More than 250 paintings and sculptures by 80 Southern self-taught artists.
National Museum of American Art, tel: (202) 367-3055, open daily. To May 21: "Jim Nutt." 78 paintings and drawings provide a retrospective of contemporary Chicago artist Jim Nutt, who has been inspired by aspects of popular culture such as comics, advertisements, and pinball machines.

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A Talented Young Chef Goes Solo

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Would that Paris spawned dozens of chefs as talented, sensible and realistic as David Van Laer. Since 1989, when he opened the doors of the chic, new-style brasserie La Manufacture in the suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux, it's been clear that he was a chef with a head on his shoulders. Van Laer has worked away patiently since then, always as an employee, yet treating as his own the restaurant owned by Jean-Pierre Vigato (chef of the two-star Michelin restaurant Apicium).
Now, at the age of 32, he has decided to go solo. Yet unlike so many before him, he hasn't insisted upon a Mercedes when the budget calls for a Peugeot 205. Downsizing from 100 seats at La Manufacture, to 32 seats at his newborn Le Bamboche, Van Laer proves that quality over quantity is what counts most in his mind. Welcome to the age of sensibility!
Van Laer's style has always been a congenial ooc: His menu has remained brief and to the point, his style of cooking respectful of the old classics, yet mindful of a modern dining trend that values, above all, lightness and freshness. He rarely serves anything that's tricky or trendy, only dishes that you can imagine he would enjoy sitting down and eating himself. And for once, here's a modern young chef who hasn't hopped on the Provençal-Italian bandwagon simply for the sake of trendiness, or to please the masses.
The two-week-old Le Bamboche (French for a "spruce" or a "lark") is sparkling bright, bathed in warm shades of ochre, terra-cotta and rousing sunset orange, much in the feel and style of many small, new restaurants that bridge the gap between bistro and upscale restaurant. Here waiters are dressed in the height of fashion, wearing elegant, primed vests, and the ecologically oriented floral arrangements look as though they just came down the street from a stylish Left Bank flower shop.
The menu is as diminutive as the two-room restaurant, and equally welcoming. A *salade d'encornets et piments doux* arrives as a tumble of dressed greens topped with tiny, sizzling squid rings, making for a gently wilted salad that fuses the seasons. A generously sized salad of poached mackerel (just a tad on the mushy side) is paired with a refreshing green salad well-laced with fresh herbs.
His Provençal fish soup — *bouillabaisse* — is elegant and irrepressibly fresh, filled with healthy portions of salmon, cod, bar

and vegetables in a refined broth, all waiting to be anointed with a saffron-rich *sauce rouille*, or garlic mayonnaise. Van Laer can even take a Pantagruelian classic such as *tête-de-veau* and turn it into a tender, soothing main course that's happily doused with spoonfuls of an impeccable *sauce grise*, delicate mayonnaise laced with a gratifyingly acidic dose of tiny pickles, capers and herbs.
Desserts vary from a classic, thio-crust-ed apple tart (which could have been a bit crispier) to a fragrant boudoir of winter fruit and whole spices baked *en papillote* (here a foil wrapper), served with vanilla ice cream.
Prices are an appealing part of the package. Diners can easily find happiness in the choices offered on the 180-franc (\$35) menu, and the wine list — limited to 45 wines and Champagnes — offers some gems. Try the bargain-priced 100-franc 1993 Pinot Noir from Domaine Ostergaard; Richard's 1993 Cuirasse red Côtes-du-Rhône at 80 francs; and a 1990 Premières Côtes-de-Bordeaux, Château Ricard at 90 francs.
Le Bamboche, 15 Rue de Babylone, Paris 7; tel: 45.49.14.40. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Credit cards: American Express, Visa. 180-franc menu; à la carte, 210 to 310 francs, including service but not wine.

and inebriate. If a recent class on Pinot Noir and Shiraz/Syrah is any indication, the subject is every bit as arcane — and slightly more intimidating if you don't speak French — as an equivalent two hours spent attempting to absorb Property Law. But with a row of empty wine glasses lined up before you, the prospects for an enjoyable evening are certainly more promising.
Eight wines are sampled each week, with a rotating panel of lecturers on hand to offer details of a wine's background, such as conditions in which the grapes are grown, history of the vineyard, personality behind the wine, and the process that occurs in the cellar. The imparting of knowledge is kept to a minimum before tasting begins: "We don't have too long in what I call the 'dry period,'" said Sutcliffe, "because I think people are dying to get to grips with the wine."
While some students approach the subject from a purely hedonistic point of view, others seem prepared to spend all night engaged in existential discussions on wine theory. One student, for example, wanted to draw Sutcliffe into what she called "the great decanting battle," which involves the quesudo whether certain wines benefit from exposure to the atmosphere. (Sutcliffe says she is "in the decanting camp," as she has seen too many wines change from the process.)
There were odd bits of wine-tasting lore to be learned, as well. Since there are no taste buds in the back of the throat, for example, one oocdn't swallow. You

Wine Class: Watch Your Language

By Susan Keselenko Coll

LONDON — It's hard to say which is the more engaging aspect of a Sotheby's wine course: the wine, or the metaphor. A particular South African Shiraz, for example, is described as "spicy and meaty as a Rottweiler of a wine." An Australian Shiraz is "a more subtle, less all-over-you-Labrador-puppy of a wine, while another gives a glimpse of roses, really truly blown roses. It's a massive wine."
Serena Sutcliffe, head of Sotheby's Wine Department, describes a flood of interest in the subject since she began offering the weekly classes three years ago. Despite the steep price of £160 (\$260) for five two-hour sessions, and a subject matter that is more exciting than meets the eye, there is barely room to lift a wineglass most evenings.
Although Sutcliffe said that the students come from a wide range of professions and backgrounds, ooc recent course offered up an image of today's wine drinkers as including no shortage of the young, the hip, and the financially well endowed. What all of the 50-odd students have in common, at any rate, is an obvious love of wine.
"The vast majority of people just want to enjoy wine more," Sutcliffe said. "They have a strong feeling, and they're right, that if they know a bit more they'll get more out of it."
Understanding wine, however, requires more than just an eagerness to show up

and inebriate. If a recent class on Pinot Noir and Shiraz/Syrah is any indication, the subject is every bit as arcane — and slightly more intimidating if you don't speak French — as an equivalent two hours spent attempting to absorb Property Law. But with a row of empty wine glasses lined up before you, the prospects for an enjoyable evening are certainly more promising.
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There were odd bits of wine-tasting lore to be learned, as well. Since there are no taste buds in the back of the throat, for example, one oocdn't swallow. You

can taste a wine just as well by swirling it around in the mouth and then spitting it into either a bush or a fancy silver spittoon. (Not surprisingly, few students seemed interested in this sobriety tip.)
Sotheby's, which holds regular international wine sales, is not the only institution to respond to this growing thirst for knowledge. Sutcliffe said that there are several other wine courses on offer around the city, as well as frequent seminars and tastings run by local wine merchants. "There's a lot going on," she said, "probably more in London almost than anywhere else." There are also more serious courses for those who would like to turn their drinking hobbies into professions, with the eventual goal of achieving a master of wine degree.
Sutcliffe said she tended to discourage those who want to enter the field: "A lot of outsiders think it's all sort of ooc lovely big picnic," she says, explaining that assessing professionally is actually very physically demanding.

Fortunately one night a week spent observing, smelling and drinking eight varieties of wine is nothing like work, and most of the participants walked away rosy-cheeked and smiling. One student, however, had a complaint to register: He originally signed up for the course just for fun. Now that he's acquiring an education, however, his liquor bill has soared: "I'm beginning to lose my taste for cheap wine," he moaned.
Susan Keselenko Coll is a free-lance writer living in London.

BOOKS

PERPETUAL MOTION:

The Private and Public Lives of Rudolf Nureyev

By Otis Stuart. Illustrated. 317 pages. \$24. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by Anna Kisselgoff

WHATEVER they may claim about a right to privacy, Otis Stuart writes, "performers live to be looked at. Some, like Nureyev, carry their own personal proscenium around with them."

Stuart, a New York City dance writer, finds the public and private Rudolf Nureyev inseparable. There was no contradiction in being an insufferable boor and one of the greatest dancers in the history of ballet. In each instance, as Stuart sees it in this stimulating, readable and sometimes exasperating biography, Nureyev's drive to behave according to his own rules determined both his life and his art.

"Perpetual Motion" is, in fact, a determinist study. Race (as a Tatar, whose ancestors ruled Russia, "cooquest was his birthright"), landscape (cold, sexual orientation (homosexual) and politics (growing up under communism) made Nureyev who he was, in the author's view.

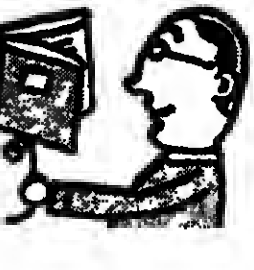
It is an overly narrow perspective, and others who lived in the same Russian context did not become Nureyev. Nonetheless, Stuart, who started out as an actor, writes with theatrical flair. One can forgive his excessive turns of phrase and factual errors (especially in names and dates) when he can be relied upon for the vivid image.

The Nureyev story, from a wartime childhood in the Soviet Union to a peak of artistry and celebrity, was "Horatio Alger rewritten as ooc-half Dostoyevsky and one-half Judith Krantz."
Or so it seems to Stuart, whose own style ranges from all-American zest ("Ma Joad had an easier time than the Russians") to a sober analysis of Nureyev's effect on ballet technique and style, an analysis framed by interviews with major dance figures from Russia and the West.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Pierre Gagnaire, French chef and art collector, is reading "L'Europe Buissonnière" by Antoine Blondin.

"Muguet and 20 colorful characters cross Europe for ooc reason — women! This book has a spirit of lightness and a lightness of spirit; the naivety of 'Candide' and the freedom of 'Don Quixote.'"
(Margaret Kemp, IHT)



knowing his illness: "Nureyev clearly missed his chance to serve a greater good for once in his life, to lend his inexhaustible resources to a cause other than Rudolf Nureyev."

George Balanchine's rejection of Nureyev in 1962, with the advice to come back after he was tired of portraying princes, is interpreted by Barbara Hogan, the head of the Balanchine Trust.

Balanchine was saying "If you come here, you have to reclaim everything you've learned." It was not a matter of princely roles but of modifying what was already in Nureyev's muscles. Nureyev, however, did not come West to unlearn. He came to learn, while intent on remaining himself. There was a difference.

Anna Kisselgoff is on the staff of The New York Times.

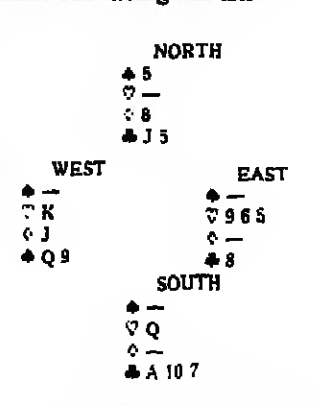
BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

MEL Colchamiro drew a delicate inference in making three no-trump on the diagrammed deal. His ooc-trump opening as South was the weak variety, and his wife's response of two diamonds as North was forcing Stayman.

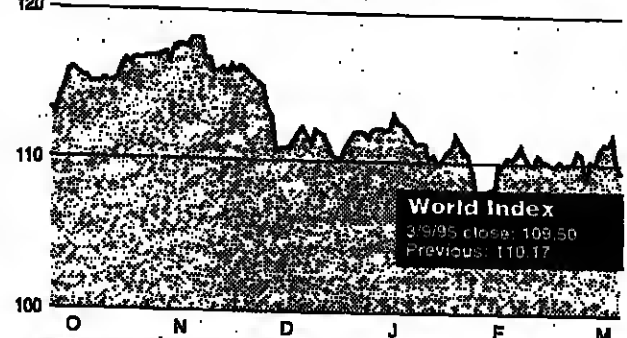
The diamond queeo was led, and dummy's ace was held up until the third round, South

worked on spades and East took the second round and shifted to the heart jack. South took the ace, led to the club king and cashed two spade winners. The ending was this:



THE TRIB INDEX: 109.50

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News, Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.



World Index
3/9/95 close: 109.50
Previous: 110.17

Asia/Pacific
Approx. weighting: 32%
Close: 121.74 Prev.: 120.89

Europe
Approx. weighting: 37%
Close: 116.92 Prev.: 116.47

North America
Approx. weighting: 25%
Close: 100.66 Prev.: 100.72

Latin America
Approx. weighting: 5%
Close: 53.27 Prev.: 51.20

The index tracks U.S. dollar value of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Amsterdam, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the 20 top issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the top 10 stocks are tracked.

Industrial Sectors

	This Week	Prev. Week	% Change
Energy	111.10	111.88	-0.64
Utilities	103.40	105.66	-2.14
Finance	111.35	111.35	0.00
Services	103.36	104.32	-0.90

	This Week	Prev. Week	% Change
Capital Goods	112.73	112.76	-0.03
Raw Materials	123.47	125.76	-1.82
Consumer Goods	106.18	106.86	-0.66
Miscellaneous	113.35	113.48	-0.10

For more information about the index, a booklet is available free of charge. Write to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France.

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Mexico Crisis Jolts Latin America Brazil's Devaluation Is Latest Sign of Spreading Impact

By Gabriel Escobar
Washington Post Service

BRASILIA — The Brazilian government, which a month ago was dismissing suggestions of devaluation, has been forced to do just that in another sign that Mexico's financial crisis is having a wide and unpredictable impact on Latin American economies.

The decision to devalue Brazil's eight-month-old currency on Monday has shaken already-rattled financial markets in the region and forced Brazil's central bank to spend an estimated \$500 million in reserves in two days to keep the currency within a new exchange band.

The devaluation, coming just a week after Argentina imposed several strict measures to offset its own crisis, is the latest indication of the impact of Mexico's instability. Even the stock market in Chile, a country that is economically sound and not directly threatened by the current crisis, reacted negatively Tuesday to Brazil's announcement.

Although their economies are different in many respects, Latin American nations are being treated in much the same way by international investors, unnerved by Mexico's collapse. That has

led to unusual cooperation as governments try to manage a crisis that some argue is out of their making.

Argentina, for example, was informed of Brazil's devaluation the day before it was announced to give officials in Buenos Aires time to prepare for the worst. In Brazil, the abrupt change in valuation could prove a tough lesson.

"Brazil's isolation has ended," said Walder de Gooz, director of the Brazilian

Institute for Political Studies. "There is an earthquake in Kobe, and it has an effect on the stock exchange in Brazil. People don't understand why."

The decision to set a new exchange band for the Brazilian real followed weeks of debate. While the administration of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso insisted publicly that the currency was not overvalued, a number of influential economists were warning that the combination of a growing trade deficit and the repercussions from Mexico's collapse were setting the country on a dangerous path.

Like Mexico before the crisis, Argentina and Brazil are viewed as having overvalued currencies. Although the result is reduced inflation — Brazil's rate dropped from about 2 percent a day to less than 2 percent a month since last July — the combination of cheap imports and a loss in export revenues has created trade deficits in both countries.

When the Mexican crisis struck in December, officials in Argentina and Brazil repeatedly said their countries would not follow a similar path. With about \$40 billion in reserves and a history of trade surpluses, Brazilian government economists argued that they could withstand the crisis. Even in Argentina, where the first trade deficit since 1991 was projected before December, officials were confident their economic model would not be shaken for long.

But the flight of foreign capital, rising interest rates and other factors, all influenced by the events in Mexico, proved all these prognostications wrong in a matter of weeks.

In Brazil, some analysts outside the government are predicting a trade deficit this year, and one estimate has reserves dropping to about \$36 billion since December.

See BRAZIL, Page 12

Top U.S. Brokers Tighten Rules On Derivatives

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Thursday hauled their agreement Thursday with six major American brokerage firms to tighten controls on trading in derivatives.

The voluntary controls on trading in complex futures instruments were announced in a report more than six months in the making.

The firms involved are CS First Boston Inc., Goldman Sachs & Co., Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co., and Salomon Brothers Inc.

They agreed to set up a system to inform people of the risks involved in derivatives trades — an answer to several lawsuits last year in which investors sued after heavy losses.

Other key elements of the voluntary guidelines include:

- "Periodic submission" to the two commissions of a series of new reports addressing the risks firms assume in derivatives.

- Specific recommendations on ways executives can monitor and measure the risks of derivatives. One option includes use of external auditors.

- A "framework" to estimate the risks a firm assumes when dealing heavily in derivatives.

The new controls were aimed at fending off legislation on over-the-counter derivatives, which are private arrangements between brokerages and their customers, following recent derivatives-related scandals.

Derivatives are financial contracts intended to provide companies with insurance against risks from changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates.

Trading in such derivatives, however, essentially involves betting on the future movements of financial instruments

such as a stock market or currency rates.

During the deliberations of the industry panel, the Derivatives Policy Group, several local governments, including Orange County, California, and companies suffered huge losses on dealings in derivatives.

Mary Schapiro, head of the futures trading commission, and Arthur Levitt, chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission, called the agreement "a positive step forward in addressing the important financial activity occurring in the unregistered affiliates of broker-dealers." (NYT, AP, AFP)

ING to Acquire All of Barings' Asian Operations

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — International Nederlanden Groep NV said Thursday it would acquire all the Asian operations of Barings PLC and hoped to have them up and running within days.

Cees Maas, a director of International Nederlanden, said that it was "highly likely" that Barings' unit in Japan would come out of administration on Friday and restart operations "immediately" after that.

Mr. Maas is in Japan for negotiations with the Finance Ministry to free the Barings unit in Japan from its special-liquidation status. It has been virtually frozen since Feb. 26.

Mr. Maas acknowledged the Dutch company had been uncertain about including the Singapore and Japanese operations in its deal to buy the failed British bank because the extent of their losses was initially unknown.

"That is now known," he said. Mr. Maas said that Barings' overall losses totaled roughly \$850 million (\$1.38 billion).

CITIC Chief Expected to Quit Over Losses

Reuters

BEIJING — The chairman of China International Trust & Investment Corp. intends to resign at a weekend meeting, apparently to take responsibility for trading losses incurred by CITIC's Shanghai unit last year, according to Western sources close to the company.

The sources said that Wei Mingyi, 71, chairman of the state-controlled investment company since 1993, would step down at a board meeting scheduled for Sunday in Beijing.

A spokesman for CITIC, however, said Thursday that the move "has yet to be announced. It will depend on the board's decision." She added that age would be the most likely reason for Mr. Wei's departure.

Last year, it became apparent that CITIC's Shanghai unit had run up losses of \$40 million from unauthorized trading of base metals, mainly copper, through 14 brokers on the London Metals Exchange.

The losses had accumulated as the traders took advantage of special credit lines offered by the brokers to accommodate discrepancies in timing between physical shipments and hedge positions in futures markets.

"It is difficult to stop a rogue trader overstepping his responsibilities when you can place millions of dollars over the phone and your word is your bond," said a Western banker familiar with the events.

Xo Shiwei, CITIC's chief negotiator, had said Tuesday that

Piracy Crackdown Begins

In line with a crackdown promised last month in trade talks with the United States, China unleashed Thursday a nationwide sweep against intellectual-property piracy. Reuters reported from Beijing.

China was extending an ongoing sweep against rampant piracy of patents, trademarks and copyrights — particularly on music and computer compact disks — that it launched at the start of the year, the Xinhua news agency said.

The move was the first measure announced by Beijing since the signing of an accord with the United States on February 26 aimed at curbing the counterfeiting of copyrights and trademarks.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

U.S. Takes Another Look at Europe

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — For much of the past two years, the assault on "Eurocentrism" in American culture and education has been matched by a turning away from Europe in U.S. international economic policy.

While promoting racial diversity and multiculturalism at home, President Bill Clinton's administration also made clear that Asia, Latin America and other fast-growing developing countries would be its most sought-after future trading partners.

To drum home the point that the world, like America itself, is changing, Washington has fought to prune the number of Europeans heading the top international trade and economic organizations.

Of course, this does not just reflect political correctness or the declining proportion of Europeans in the U.S. population mix. The new emphasis was based primarily on a hard-headed assessment that the most promising export prospects are in the dynamic emerging markets, not tired old Europe.

As a result, economic links across the Atlantic have at best been taken for granted. Attempts to build a new trans-Atlantic architecture have focused on security and the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization rather than on trade and economics.

Now, as Europe emerges from recession and the developing world looks shakier, U.S. economic interests are be-

ing recalculated. Europe appears increasingly attractive, not just as a market but as an essential partner to help achieve key U.S. international objectives, such as liberalizing world trade and stabilizing Central and Eastern Europe.

On both sides of the Atlantic there are growing fears that with no common cen-

The new emphasis is based on an assessment that the most promising export prospects are not in tired old Europe.

trality threat in the post-Cold War era, Europe and America could drift apart and relapse into trade wars and protectionism.

Calls are multiplying for the Atlantic security alliance to be complemented by strengthened economic ties — perhaps in the form of a huge new free-trade area similar to those Washington is already planning in the Pacific and in the Western Hemisphere.

Many quite rightly believe there is need for a new vision, even if they are not quite sure what it is. Latest among them is Jeffrey E. Garten, undersecretary of commerce for international trade, who on Thursday called for a new Atlantic economic architecture founded on broader and deeper trade relations.

Taking the whole economic relationship into account, including investment

as well as trade, "Europe is by far the largest and most important global economic partner for the United States," Mr. Garten told the American Council on Germany in New York.

But Mr. Garten stopped short of endorsing a free-trade area. That would be "a very superficial gesture," he said, given that the United States has already achieved a much deeper level of economic integration with Europe than with Latin America or the Pacific.

Others in Washington argue that as most trans-Atlantic industrial trade will soon be duty-free or nearly so, an Atlantic free-trade area would be largely symbolic.

But that is a reason for going ahead. It would be much easier to introduce free trade across the Atlantic than the Pacific. Right now a symbol is precisely what is called for.

North America and the European Union should hold a summit meeting and declare agreement to complete industrial free trade by a fixed target date, say 2005, just as the Asia-Pacific and Western hemisphere countries did last year.

That would create a good framework for negotiations in other important areas such as government procurement, standards, intellectual property protection, investment, trade in services and, eventually, agriculture.

There would be political difficulties on both sides. But it would be unfortunate if one of them were a reluctance by the United States to appear too "Eurocentric" in the eyes of its Asian and Latin American friends.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	F.F.	Yen	Sw.	S.F.	Yen	CS Pesos
Australian	1.50	2.28	1.07	0.83	0.67	—	5.82	1.50	1.10
Brussels	20.25	4.65	2.44	2.15	1.25	—	24.8	2.37	1.23
Frankfurt	1.97	2.55	—	2.31	1.40	—	4.61	1.02	0.75
London (to)	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madrid (to)	16.94	26.99	12.72	10.76	7.71	—	4.64	1.02	0.75
Paris (to)	16.28	26.92	12.65	10.70	7.68	—	4.64	1.02	0.75
Stockholm	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	1.48	2.05	—	1.85	1.07	—	5.82	1.50	1.10
Tokyo (to)	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zurich	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ECU	1.36	1.93	—	1.73	1.00	—	5.82	1.50	1.10
1 DM	1.36	1.93	—	1.73	1.00	—	5.82	1.50	1.10

Changings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris, New York and Zurich. Rates in other centers available.

Source: Reuters, 3 p.m.

a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; c: Units of 100; N.A.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.

Eurocurrency Deposits									
	1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Bank of America	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Montreal	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Paris	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Spain	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Tokyo	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of West Germany	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Zurich	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of the Netherlands	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Italy	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4

Key Money Rates									
	1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Bank of America	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Montreal	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Paris	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Spain	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Tokyo	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of West Germany	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Zurich	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of the Netherlands	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Bank of Italy	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4

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STANDARD CHARTERED PLC: 1994 RESULTS

Pre-tax profit up 27% to £510 million

Earnings per share up 36% to 32.7 pence

Costs held below last year

Tier 1 Capital up to 75%

Return on Shareholder Equity up to 24%

Standard Chartered

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

MARKET DIARY

Weak Dollar Holds Stock Market Back

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — Blue-chip stocks followed bonds cautiously higher Thursday, but the broader stock market was held back by the dollar.

While the Dow Jones industrial average edged up 4.16 points, to close at 9,833.39, and the most other indexes showed incremental gains, declining issues nar-

rowly edged out gamblers on the New York Stock Exchange. Concerns about the weak dollar and possible interest rate increases cramped activity.

Bonds rallied slightly, with the 30-year Treasury yield falling to 7.51 percent, from 7.56 percent. Analysts said that investors fleeing the troubled Latin American markets were parking their money in U.S. government paper.

But that was not enough to help equities. "The market is just waiting for another shoe to drop," said John Burnett, a trader at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities. "There is a good deal of caution."

"Most people are crossing

their fingers, hoping to see some stabilization in South America and Mexico," he added. "But who can feel too terrible about this market, which is still within striking distance of its all-time high?"

Telefonos de Mexico was the most heavily traded stock on the Big Board, closing up 1/4 at 34 1/4, as the peso crisis rocked the Mexican Bolsa.

Semiconductor issues rallied in the wake of a report from the Semiconductor Industry Association that its book-to-bill ratio rose in February.

The Big Three automakers rallied as well, led by Ford, which closed up 1/4 at 25 1/4.

J.P. Morgan slumped 1/4 at 62 1/4 amid concern that the bank faces possible large losses on loans made in Latin America.

Morgan is perceived to "have big exposure in Latin America," and investors are apparently concerned "they're going to have bad debts on their loans," said Anthony Conroy, director of equity trading at BT Global Asset Management, a division Bankers Trust New York Corp.

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

Argentina Backs Down, Will Seek IMF Loan

Knight-Ridder
BUENOS AIRES — Argentina will ask the International Monetary Fund for a new loan, probably \$2 billion, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said Thursday in a briefing to Congress.

The announcement ended a week of indecision by Mr. Cavallo, his economic advisers and

President Carlos Saul Menem over whether Argentina should seek new medium-term credit from the IMF.

Mr. Cavallo had until now argued that Argentina did not need a new loan because it did not have a balance-of-payments problem.

But many investors and average Argentines have been losing confidence in the government's ability to manage its crisis. Capital flight has increased, leaving the banking system illiquid and stock prices at their lowest in four years.

For the first time since Mexico's financial crisis began in December, Mr. Cavallo openly

admitted Argentina "was going through a critical moment."

He told lawmakers they should act quickly to approve a package of proposed taxes and spending cuts. Such a move would send a signal to investors that Argentina has the political leadership to overcome the crisis, he added.

The failure of Congress and the government to work together could "leave us in the bottom of a pit that would require a long time to get out," he said.

■ **Peso's Slide Persists**

The Mexican peso touched a record low of 7.55 against the dollar Thursday amid persistent rumors, denied by officials, that a suspension of trading in the currency was imminent.

Agence France-Press reported from Mexico City. The dollar ended New York trading at 7.45 pesos, up from 7.02 on Wednesday.

A Bank of Mexico spokesman called the rumors "totally false." Earlier, the bank said it would announce a new program for economic stabilization, including a tightened monetary policy, but that there would be "no moratorium on payments."

Continued from Page 11

In Argentina, Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo, the architect of the country's economic recovery, was forced to reverse himself last week on seeking aid from the International Monetary Fund, which he had loudly rejected just months ago.

But even the assurances of the IMF and other measures announced last week were not

via Associated Press March 9

The Dow

Daily closings of the Dow Jones industrial average

4100

3000

2000

1000

0

1994

S O N D J F M

1995

4100

3000

2000

1000

0

1994

S O N D J F M

1995

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1994

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1995

4100

3000

2000

Dow Jones Averages

Open High Low Last Chg.

Indus. 2978.54 2973.74 2971.21 2973.79 +4.16

Transp. 1541.20 1544.23 1539.99 1543.72 +2.52

Com. 1279.46 1317.73 1320.07 1327.63 +7.17

NYSE Most Active

Vol. High Low Last Chg.

Telcel 11112 24 1/2 24 1/2 24 1/2 +1/4

IBM 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Microsoft 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Oracle 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Novell 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Lotus 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Intuit 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Adobe 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Apple 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

Microsoft 2975 2978 2976 2978 +1/4

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EUROPEAN FUTURES

Metals

ALUMINUM (High Grade)

1810.00 1810.00 1810.00 1810.00

COPPER (High Grade)

207.00 207.00 207.00 207.00

NICKEL

77.00 77.00 77.00 77.00

STEEL

100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

IRON

100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

COAL

100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

(Continued)

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South K
Pledge
Market

551210

South Korea Pledges to Ease Market Access

Mr. Bangemann complained about South Korea at a car conference in Paris this week. "It is obvious that Korea must press ahead urgently with much more deregulation, remove technical trade barriers and encourage rather than discourage imports as in the past," he said.

Censorship by Satellite

Party Would Vet Chinese Broadcasts

China National Aerospace was formed in 1993 after the Ministry of Aerospace Industry was split into an aircraft-making corporation and a space and telecommunications arm. The corporation has hundreds of subsidiaries.

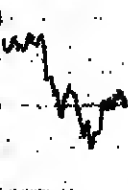

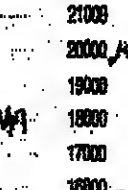
News Corp. and Telstra Add Film Rights

FoxNet is News Corp.'s first major attempt at the development of a cable TV network. The global media company, which is about 30 percent owned by its chairman, Rupert Murdoch, owns 40 percent of the European satellite broadcaster BSkyB, owns the Fox broadcast network in the United States and controls the Asian satellite operator STAR TV.

Sime Darby On Track For Higher '95 Profit

plantation revenue should more than double from the 39.9 million ringgit recorded in 1994, thanks to the 60 percent jump in palm oil prices during the last six months of 1994, said Les Nicholls, head of research at PB Securities.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng		Singapore Straits Times		Tokyo Nikkei 225	
					
Exchange: Index		Thursday Close		Prev. Close	
1984 1985		1984 1985		1984 1985	
Hong Kong	Hang Seng				% Change
		8,876.79	7,929.89		+1.86
Singapore	Straits Times	2,870.74	2,063.38		+0.36
Sydney	All Ordinaries	1,677.50	1,883.20		-0.30
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	16,763.08	16,821.31		+0.65
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	851.21	935.05		+1.73
Bangkok	SET	1,214.95	1,206.88		+0.67
Seoul	Composite Stock	943.75	940.08		+0.39
Taipei	Weighted Price	5,388.36	6,426.07		-0.59
Manila	PSE	2,370.06	2,411.78		-1.73
Jakarta	Stock Index	437.50	437.30		+0.05
New Zealand	NZSE-40	1,937.46	1,949.85		-0.39
Bombay	National Index	1,690.60	1,689.62		+0.06

Very briefly:

• Dusit Thani PLC, Thailand's largest hotel company, said its consolidated profit in the quarter ended Dec. 31 was 37.3 million baht (\$1.5 million), up from 24.6 million baht in the year-ago period. *AP, AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg*

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REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS

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SPORTS

O'Neal's Magic Dispatches Lakers

The Associated Press
These days it seems the Orlando Magic can't miss, even with Shaquille O'Neal at the foul line and a victory at stake. O'Neal made two game-clinching free throws over Orlando's 114-110 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night, as the Magic improved their home record to 30-1 and stayed six games in front of the New York Knicks in the Atlantic Division.

"I just put them up and they went in," O'Neal, a 55 percent shooter from the free-throw

line, said of his foul shots with 4.6 seconds left.

The Magic got from another big game from their center, who scored 29 points in the first half and delivered two pivotal lay-

NBA HIGHLIGHTS

ups in the last two minutes. He finished 20 of 26 from the field, had 11 rebounds and blocked five shots.

"He showed that he is the best player in the league," said the Lakers' coach, Phil Jackson. "He's not supposed to make

those two free throws at the clutch time."

Anthony Peeler led Los Angeles with 26 points, Divac had 23 points and 15 rebounds, but the Lakers played without three injured starters, Cedric Ceballos, Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell.

Orlando led by as many as 16 earlier in the second half, but the Lakers closed to 112-110 on Lloyd Daniel's two free throws with 27 seconds left.

Then O'Neal rebounded Brian Shaw's miss on the other end

and was fouled by Divac. O'Neal made both shots.

Jazz 114, Mavericks 87: Utah, which avenged its worst loss of the season and increased its Midwest Division lead over San Antonio to three games, held a 20-point lead in the third quarter, allowing its coach, Jerry Sloan, to rest Karl Malone and Jeff Hornacek in the final period.

Knicks 108, Celtics 100: Anthony Mason had 19 points, 12 rebounds and 7 assists as New York beat Boston for the second consecutive night.

Patrick Ewing, with a season-high 46 points the night before, got 18 before leaving the game late in the third quarter.

Atlanta 99, Denver 88: Ken Norman had a season-high 33 points and eight rebounds as Atlanta broke Denver's four-game winning streak.

Mookie Blaylock and Stacey Augmon each added 17 points for the Hawks, who have won five of their last seven and four in a row at home.

SuperSonics 118, Timberwolves 104: Hot-shooting Delfino Schrempf went 5 for 6 from point range and scored 27 points as Seattle beat Minnesota.

Schrempf, shooting 62 percent in his last eight games, made 9 of 12 shots overall.

Warriors 120, Clippers 107: A victory over Los Angeles gave Golden State its first winning streak of 1995.

The Warriors, who upset the SuperSonics in Seattle on Monday, won consecutive games for the first time since December.

Iowa Upsets Michigan State, 79-78

The Associated Press
Iowa gave Jud Heathcote a clock for his retirement present, although Michigan State's coach would have much preferred a victory.

The Hawkeyes' 79-78 victory Wednesday night hurt the ninth-ranked Spartans' Big Ten title hopes as they dropped a half-game behind Purdue with just one game left. Purdue was to play Thursday night at Minnesota.

"It's a shame that someone had to lose," said Heathcote, who is retiring after this season, his 19th. "It's a double shame that we had to lose."

To the only game that determined a spot in the NCAA tournament, Drexel, host Northeastern for the North Atlantic Conference title.

Big Ten and its two best 3-point shooters in Michigan State's Shawna Respert and Iowa's Chris Kingsbury.

Respert led all scorers with 39 points on 15-of-26 shooting.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

including 7 of 15 from loog range.

Teammate Quinton Brooks had 12 points.

"Respert is awfully tough to find," Davis said. "I thought we did a good job holding him to 39."

Jess Settles led Iowa with 22 points, while Kingsbury got 20 or 7-of-12 shooting and was 6 of 10 from 3-point range.

But the hero of the game was Andre Woolridge, who scored all 10 of his points in the second half and made the winning shot with 2.3 seconds to play.

Woolridge hit a 3-pointer to give the Hawkeyes a 77-76 lead with 18.2 seconds to go, but Jamie Feick's dunk on Michigan State's next possession put the Spartans ahead with 9.3 seconds left.

After an Iowa timeout, Settles inounded the ball to Woolridge, who drove the length of the court, got a nice pick from Kenyon Murray, and popped a 15-foot baseline jumper for the game winner.

Drexel 72, Northeastern 52: Playing in Philadelphia, Malik Rose had 21 points and 13 rebounds to lead Drexel into the NCAA tournament.

It will be the second year in a row and the third time in school history that Drexel (22-7), the defending NAC champion, has gained an NCAA tournament berth.



Shaquille O'Neal (center), helped by Horace Grant, not only got a rebound away from Vlade Divac, he beat the Lakers with free throws.

Usury to Owners: Make 'Best Offer'

The Associated Press
PALM BEACH, Florida — The federal mediator W.J. Usery called Thursday for the owners of major league baseball's teams to make their "best offer" to the players next week in an effort to resolve the seven-month strike.

After speaking to all the owners for about an hour, Usery held his most detailed news conference on the strike since he joined the talks at President Bill Clinton's behest last October.

"After 30 years in this process and over 1,000 national major disputes, this one has gotten almost embarrassing," Usery said, "and it's ridiculous."

He said no time or place had been set to resume the strike talks, which were broken off last Sunday in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jerry McMorris, the chairman of the Colorado Rockies who now heads management's negotiating committee, said his group would attempt to formulate a new proposal. He said he thought the sides had made progress last week.

"I think we got off religion and philosophy," he said. "Now we're down to dealing with numbers."

Usery said he was against the owners' plan to start the season with replacement players, but McMorris said teams would do just that if there isn't a deal.

The mediator said it was up to owners to make the next move because they were the side seeking major changes.

"I think in this case the owners are the moving party," Usery said. "The owners ought to come forth with their very best offer for an agreement."

"I didn't say anything about final offer," he added.

"If the players can't accept it, they should respond why they can't accept it and what changes they want in it."

McMorris, though, hinted that the owners might resist changes after their next proposal. "I feel it's time to come out with our best offer and then stand by it," he said.

Rangers Get Victory-Plus

The Associated Press

Steve Larmer joined the "1,000-point club" in style.

Needing just two points to reach the milestone, he got three assists and the winning goal in the New York Rangers' 6-4 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Wednesday night.

"The thousand is nice, but it's pretty disappointing if you

NHL HIGHLIGHTS

don't win," said Larmer, who became the 43rd player in the NHL to reach 1,000 points.

He set up Brian Noonan for a tie-breaking goal early in the third period. Then, after Stephane Richer scored for New Jersey to make it 4-4, Larmer scored with 1:14 left before assisting on Mark Messier's empty-netter at 19:16.

The Devils also lost top defenseman Ken Daneyko for four weeks. He hurt his right knee in a first-period fight with the Rangers' Joe Kocur.

Sabres 2, Canadiens 2: Alexander Mogilny scored in the third period and Dominik Hasek made 30 saves as Buffalo tied Montreal.

The Sabres were held in the game by Hasek as the Canadiens outshot them by 32-16.

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct
Orlando	44	14	.758
New York	39	19	.672
Boston	35	23	.603
New Jersey	34	24	.586
Atlanta	33	25	.567
Philadelphia	23	35	.397
Washington	15	43	.258
Central Division			
Charlotte	32	22	.593
Indiana	35	23	.603
Cleveland	34	24	.586
Chicago	30	28	.518
Altoona	23	35	.397
Milwaukee	15	43	.258
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct
Utah	41	17	.705
San Antonio	39	19	.672
Houston	35	23	.603
Denver	32	26	.552
Dallas	27	31	.464
Minnesota	15	43	.258
Pacific Division			
Phoenix	44	14	.758
Seattle	39	19	.672
L.A. Lakers	34	24	.586
Portland	25	33	.433
Sacramento	23	35	.397
Golden State	15	43	.258
L.A. Clippers	12	46	.208

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Utah	24	18	.553	3	0
San Antonio	23	19	.546	3	0
Houston	25	24	.513	4	1
Denver	27	22	.558	16 1/2	5
Dallas	27	25	.584	20 1/2	11
Minnesota	14	44	.267	28	28
PACIFIC DIVISION					
Phoenix	44	14	.767		1
Seattle	39	18	.684	5 1/2	6
L.A. Lakers	34	22	.621	9	1
Portland	21	26	.544	13 1/4	33
Sacramento	29	28	.509	15 1/2	35
Golden State	18	40	.310	27	27
L.A. Clippers	12	49	.197	34 1/4	38
WEDNESDAY RESULTS					

Major College Scores

Utah	21	38	.351	Portland	21	38	.351
Washington	21	38	.351	San Antonio	21	38	.351
Dallas	21	38	.351	Houston	21	38	.351
Phoenix	21	38	.351	Denver	21	38	.351
Seattle	21	38	.351	Dallas	21	38	.351
L.A. Lakers	21	38	.351	Minnesota	21	38	.351
Portland	21	38	.351	Golden State	21	38	.351
Sacramento	21	38	.351	L.A. Clippers	21	38	.351
Golden State	21	38	.351				

NHL Standings

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WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Albuquerque 16-15 5-17, Kansas 21-13 5-11, Utah 21-33 7-10, 6-15 1-17, Cincy 21-33 7-19, Rockets-Oakland 21-33 (Williams, Terry) 9, 25 (Dell) 1-17, Dallas-Dallas 18 (Kidd 21-33 7-10 2-17, Houston 21-33 7-10 2-17)	Chicago 13 7 1 29 83 St. Louis 12 6 2 22 76 Dallas 9 11 21 61 Winnipeg 9 11 21 63
Chesnut 21 38 22-33-167 38 21-33 7-10 2-17	Pacific Division
Seattle 21-33 7-10 2-17, Phoenix 21-33 7-10 2-17, Portland 18-15 8-13, Sprewell 16-15 8-13	Catany 9 11 21 63 San Jose 9 11 21 63 Golden State 11 21 63 Vancouver 6 7 19 60 Los Angeles 5 11 14 60 Anheim 1 16 44 77
Seattle 15-15 7-23, Sprewell 16-15 8-13, Portland 18-15 8-13, Phoenix 21-33 7-10 2-17, Golden State 11 21 63, Los Angeles 21 (Duchene 8), Golden State 21 (Horsdovky 8)	WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Others	Others 8 2 20

Major College Scores

EAST	
59, Princeton 57	10
58, New York 56	10
57, New York 56	10
56, New York 56	10
55, New York 56	10
54, New York 56	10
53, New York 56	10
52, New York 56	10
51, New York 56	10
50, New York 56	10
49, New York 56	10
48, New York 56	10
47, New York 56	10
46, New York 56	10
45, New York 56	10
44, New York 56	10
43, New York 56	10
42, New York 56	10
41, New York 56	10
40, New York 56	10
39, New York 56	10
38, New York 56	10
37, New York 56	10
36, New York 56	10
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12, New York 56	10
11, New York 56	10
10, New York 56	10
9, New York 56	10
8, New York 56	10
7, New York 56	10
6, New York 56	10
5, New York 56	10
4, New York 56	10
3, New York 56	10
2, New York 56	10
1, New York 56	10

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

First Period: New Second Period: N.Y.-M.	N.Y.-M.				
Messier 1 (Kovalev, Lashoff); N.J.-Robinson 2	N.J.-Robinson 2				
Second Period: N.Y.-M. 1 (Kovalev, Lashoff); N.J.-Robinson 2	N.J.-Robinson 2				
Third Period: N.Y.-M. 1 (Kovalev, Lashoff); N.J.-Robinson 2	N.J.-Robinson 2				
Fourth Period: N.Y.-M. 1 (Kovalev, Lashoff); N.J.-Robinson 2	N.J.-Robinson 2				
Final Score: N.Y.-M. 1 (Kovalev, Lashoff); N.J.-Robinson 2	N.J.-Robinson 2				
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WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Etik 6 (Folger, Doherty); (sp), Third Period;
 E-Aruff 7 (Carson, Offner); E-Offner 9 (Carson, Richardson); (an), Starts on road; E 8-15-9-32, S.J., 10-9-9-28. Goals: E, Ronford, S.J., Irbe.

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn 1, Arsenal 1
 Manchester City 1, Chelsea 2
 Newcastle 2, West Ham 0
 Norwich 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0
 Northampton 1, Forest 3.

Major College Scores

Standings: Manchester United 40 points, Newcastle 40, Liverpool 54, Nottingham Forest 51, Tottenham 49, Leeds 43, Sheffield Wednesday 40, Arsenal 40, Chelsea 40, Aston Villa 37, Coventry 37, Wimbledon 30, Queen's Park Rangers 28, Norwich 28, Manchester City 27, Everton 25, Southampton 22, West Ham 22, Crystal Palace 21, Ipswich 23, Leicester 21.

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP
Southwest, Second Leg

Bolton 2, Swindon Town 1
(Bolton advances 4-3 on aggregate.)
Crystal Palace 1, Liverpool 1

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

RKC Wassenaar 6, Vitesse Arnhem 0	
GA Eagles Deventer 6, Twente Enschede 2	
Volendam 2, FC Eindhoven 0	
NAC Breda 1, PSV Eindhoven 2	
Standstill: Ajax Amsterdam 38 points.	
Roda JC Kerkrade 27, PSV Eindhoven 34.	
Volendam 2, FC Eindhoven 0	
34, Willem II Tilburg 25, Vitesse Arnhem 27,	
Heerenveen 24, Volendam 23, RKC Wassenaar 27,	
Groningen 23, NAC Breda 19, Utrecht 16.	
FC Eindhoven 14, Twente Enschede 17,	
NED Nitzeggen 14, GA Eagles Deventer 10.	
Dordrecht 99 6.	
DUTCH CUP	
Quarterfinals	
Ajax Amsterdam 2, Feyenoord 2	
ITALIAN CUP	
Semi-finals, First Leg	
Lazio 0, Juventus 1	
Inter Milan 1, Fiorentina 0	
SPANISH CUP	
Quarterfinals, First Leg	
Sevilla 1, Real Madrid 1	
Real Madrid 1, Valencia 1	
Real Madrid 1, Real Betis 0	
Real Madrid 1, Valencia 1	

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

LE HAVRE 16 Paris 30, Germany 1
(Paris SG wins 4-3 on penalties.)

GERMAN CUP
Quarter-finals

Coloane 2, Karlsruhe 1
Moenchengladbach 3, Schalke 2

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

Turkey 2, Israel 1
Greece 1, Switzerland 1

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Herald Tribune SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1995

PAGE 19

Gritschuk and Platov Retain Lead in Dance

BIRMINGHAM—Olympic champions Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeni Platov of Russia gave another display of their ice dancing mastery Thursday at the World Figure Skating Championships to move nearer to a second straight world title.

There was no sign of the knee injury that Platov said would need surgery at the season's end as he and Gritschuk scouted suggestions they might be rusty after missing last month's European championships.

The Finnish winners in Dortmund, Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, were in second place after the original dance portion of the competition. The French couple Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy were third as the top three couples held their positions from Tuesday's compulsories.

In what they have said is their last amateur competition, the Russians' quickstep was a lesson in fast-paced but controlled ice dancing.

"The knee bothered me only a very little bit," Platov said. "You get such an adrenaline shot when you're in competition, you don't even think about it."

He and Gritschuk, who train in Wilmetto, Delaware, placed first with eight of the nine judges. They are to unveil a much-anticipated Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers routine in the medal-deciding free dance on Friday.

The Czech pair of Radka Kovarikova and René Novotny made the fewest mistakes among the top pairs to win that gold medal Wednesday night.

The California-based couple, squeezed out the medals so many times before by Russian skaters, won the title ahead of



The quickstepping Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeni Platov were first with eight of nine judges.

defending champions Yevgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov. With U.S. champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand moving up to claim the bronze, all three medals went to engaged couples skating classical routines.

Novotny and Kovarikova survived her early stumble on a triple-toe loop and her strained landing on the throw-triple salchow in a routine to Verdi.

Retaining the lead they held after the short program, their marks ranged from 5.6-5.8 for technical merit and 5.7-5.9 for presentation.

"When I overrated the triple-toe, I knew it was not the end of the program and I just got stronger," said Kovarikova, who will join the full-time professional ranks with her partner next season.

On an evening when the favorites were not in top form, the most flawless performance came from Meno and Sand with their romantic routine to Puccini's "Nessun Dorma."

Their program, however, lacked the speed and difficulty of the other routines, and their marks ranged from 5.5-5.6 and 5.5-5.9. Fifth going into the free skate, they placed third on the night to move up to third overall.

It was the first U.S. pairs medal at the worlds since 1991, when Sand teamed with Natalia Kuchiki to win bronze. Sand and Meno became a team after falling in love while skating with different partners at the 1992 Olympics in Albertville, France.

They were engaged at the Liljeblom Games last year and will marry in July.

Less riveting, but still deemed worthy of the silver, was an unpolished performance by Naumov and Shishkova. The Russian pair were out of sync in their jumps and failed to keep

Niyongabo Flap Diminishes IAAF's Show Even More

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

BARCELONA—The 5th IAAF World Indoor Championships will begin Friday with everything but the most famous champions.

The British team has said that Linford Christie will come to watch, not to run, so the International Amateur Athletic Federation shrugged Thursday and moved on to the next disaster: the refusal by Spanish authorities to allow Yvonne Niyongabo into the country.

At 21, Niyongabo, from Burundi, is the next best thing to world champion Noureddine Morceli—who isn't here—and he was planning to win the 3,000 meters. Flying in Wednesday from Italy, where he trains, he landed in Barcelona without a visa, though he held an invitation from the IAAF to receive a visa. He was detained for three hours—"I use the term 'detained' guardedly," said the IAAF spokesman Christopher Winner—and was put on a flight back to Italy.

The IAAF's president, Primo Nebiolo, expressed "his concern" to the Spanish authorities, who were trying to reach Niyongabo to apologize and begin his return.

He says he's fine, he has nothing against anyone, but after his experience at the airport he has no desire to get back here. Winner quoted Niyongabo as saying, "He got back to Rome at midnight, he's had a long season, and he almost spent the night in the train station trying to get back to Siena."

As for Christie, the Olympic and World champion sprinter who had twice changed his mind already, he said, once and for all, that he would happily run in the 60-meter race—but only if teammates Michael

In China, Calls Go Out: Bring Back Ma Junren

BEIJING—As calls increased Thursday for the leader of the "Ma Family Army" of women's distance-running champions to be given another chance, China's Olympic chief, Wei Jizhong, described Ma Junren as a flawed person but a brilliant coach.

Wei, the Chinese Olympic Committee's secretary-general, spoke as the feud between Ma and his athletes provoked open media censure of the double world champion Wang Junxia and her teammates, who dumped the mercurial Ma late last year.

"This situation is very bad and, like many things, may take time to fix," said Wei. "If there is a problem, everyone should make a thorough self-criticism—just like our Chairman Mao Tse-tung liked to say."

Since most of his team abandoned him, Ma has been injured in a car crash, had his appendix removed and his father has died.

Nor has Wang Junxia's life been easy since the breakup.

Just 18 months ago she was hailed for her world championship in the 10,000 meters and marathon and for launching China into the sport's elite.

But on Thursday, there was little but scorn for the woman who slashed 42 seconds off the 10,000-meter world record in 1993 and earned last year's coveted Jesse Owens Award.

Shanghai newspapers ridiculed Wang and her teammates, who defected from Ma's squad last December, branding them fat and ill-disciplined.

Commentators mocked a humiliating weekend outing by

SIDELINES

Cejka Ties Course Record With 66

AGADIR, Morocco (Reuters)—Alexander Cejka, who won his first European PGA tournament last Sunday at the Andalucia Open, equaled the course record Thursday with a 6-under-par 66 in the first round of the Moroccan Open.

He led Sam Torrance of Scotland by one shot. Robert Karlsson, like Cejka a first-time winner this season, was tied at 68 with fellow Swede Anders Guller, Michel Beaumecy of France, Eamonn Darcy of Ireland and Malcolm Mackenzie of England.

The Extramadura Open, scheduled for Badajoz, Spain, on March 30-April 2, has been canceled because organizers can raise only 60 percent of the \$400,000 prize money, the European Tour said.

Rams' Move Is Meeting Opposition

LOS ANGELES (LAT)—The Rams' moving of their NFL franchise from Anaheim to St. Louis, once considered a done deal, has come under recent attack by owners with financial concerns and, now, the Fox TV network, which paid the league \$1.58 billion last year to broadcast National Football Conference games that included the Los Angeles-based Rams.

Joe Browne, the league spokesman, confirmed Wednesday that Fox officials have issued a letter formally opposing the move.

Sources said the letter demands a monetary rebate to compensate Fox for losing a "home" team in the nation's second-ranked TV market in exchange for a team in the 18th-ranked market.

For the Record

Roberto Baggio, in his first game for 14 weeks, played 90 minutes and made the pass from which Fabrizio Ravanelli scored in Juventus's 1-0 victory over Lazio in an Italian Cup semifinal first-leg tie.

The French government will provide \$15 million in aid to auto races jeopardized by a ban on tobacco companies sponsoring sports events, Premier Edouard Balladur said in Le Mans. (AP)

Nippon's In, France Out — By Mere 13 Seconds

By Angus Phillips
Washington Post Service

SAN DIEGO—In a wild and unexpected end to a woe-filled season, ill-fated France 3 came within seconds of advancing to the America's Cup challenger semifinals, but fell short.

It was a final blow to the French, who nearly destroyed their race boat in December when they dropped it from a launch crane, then lost the keel and capsized their training boat in February, then finally were dismantled here Sunday, the same day one Australia sank in strong winds.

Still, France 3 entered this last day of round robin trailing the Japanese entry Nippon by three points, with a victory Wednesday worth five points. France's dream was to beat Sydney 95 and hope that Rijka de Espoia, with the worst record in the field, beat Nippon. It almost happened.

The French easily outslid Sydney 95, by 1 minute 36 seconds, after starting helmsman



French skipper Marc Pajot waved goodbye to San Diego.

replaced year-old boat that replaced the new racer that sunk, beat TAG Heuer by 57 seconds to finish second overall in the Louis Vuitton Cup standings.

Team New Zealand has 65 points, one Australia 53, Tag Heuer Challenge 49 and Nippon Challenge 28. France 3 finished with 25, Rijka de Espoia 14 and Sydney 95 had 13.

On the defender course, Dennis Comer's Stars & Stripes easily beat the all-women's boat, Mighty Mary, by 1:35, clinching second place.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Calendar mo.
- 4 Up
- 10 Jerome Kern's "They Belong to Me"
- 14 Bland part
- 16 Word with city or circle
- 17 Copy
- 18 It's often bid
- 20 Kenilworth and Boston, e.g.
- 21 Engenders
- 22 Abbreviated version
- 23 Shive
- 24 Ocular socket
- 25 Dicker
- 26 Takeout sign
- 27 Acrobatic
- 28 Kress ingredient
- 29 Three-person card game
- 30 Kansas City paper
- 31 Best bigwig, briefly
- 32 Winter driving need
- 33 In (stuck)
- 34 Cranebills
- 35 Explain anew
- 36 Brain-wave record, familiarly
- 37 Loose eggs
- 38 Springer and Sussex, e.g.
- 39 Anglican headress
- 40 "The Secret Garden" Tony winner Delay
- 41 Rota procedure
- 42 "We Are"
- 43 Cretaceous
- 44 Peevish
- 45 Au fait
- 46 Comment of surprise
- 47 Filled to overflowing
- 48 Four-time Oscar-winning film scorer
- 49 Property seizures
- 50 Unfixed
- 51 Jerk
- 52 Benadent of "Peterson Junction"
- 53 Craftsman
- 54 High schooler
- 55 Logbook
- 56 "Without a doubt"
- 57 Black Sea feeder
- 58 With open palms, maybe
- 59 Fiduciary
- 60 Cutters
- 61 Swallowing cause
- 62 Bowstring
- 63 Walk stealthily
- 64 Twelve ("G.W.T.W." locale)
- 65 Seed coverings
- 66 Pakistani garment
- 67 Make up
- 68 Toddler's safety item
- 69 Set the stage
- 70 Storm problems
- 71 Wring
- 72 Hitting hard
- 73 Kind of farming
- 74 Took major steps
- 75 Full of fuzz
- 76 Discern
- 77 100 centesimal
- 78 Trading center
- 79 French writer
- 80 Theater group, informally

DOWN

- 1 Filled to overflowing
- 2 Four-time Oscar-winning film scorer
- 3 Property seizures
- 4 Unfixed
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Solution to Puzzle of March 9

SLID	MATCH	FLAG
TALE	OWAHA	RAKE
ENTIS	RABER	OHIO
MAKES	ASHARTON	
SWERVE	ROOF	
SOM	TAMAR	WHITE
TRYTO	ACRATURAL	
ASSERT	KOS	EKE
NOEND	TEMPUS	
VEAH	ASIAN	
CHARGE	BAFFLE	FREE
BOER	ISLAM	COPA
ICED	LEICA	ORAL
ZIAPS	ESTER	MELS

Belgium's Goalie Preud'homme Retiring

BRUSSELS—Michel Preud'homme, voted the best goalkeeper at last year's World Cup, announced Thursday that he was retiring from Belgium's slumping national team.

"I have thought thoroughly before making this decision," said Preud'homme, who is 36. "I think this is a good moment for me."

The announcement was another blow for the Red Devils, who had already lost veteran defender Franky Vander Elst since the humiliating 4-1 loss to visiting Spain in a European Championship qualifier in January.

Belgium is fourth in the six-team Group 2. Only two teams from the group qualify for the finals next year in England.

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The Trials of Trials

Clark, "I object most vigorously to the court's constantly favoring the defense in nutritional matters and demand equal advice to the prosecution."
"Eat your heart out," said Ito.

Soon the gossip mill was in gear. Predictably, the New York Post's widely read Page Six column was first, and dropped regular hints throughout

perfectly all the time. It's an anti-life pressure. It is based on nothing but this overwhelming fear that with one mistake you can lose everything. In a way you have to admire Jann for saying, "This is what I want."

Greg Longanis gave President Bill Clinton two autographed copies of his new book — one for the president and one for his daughter, Chelsea — when Clinton met briefly the Olympic gold medalist.

[illegible]

No, it's not telepathy

of the night, do it the best way possible. In your sleep.



ASIA/PACIFIC		NEW ZEALAND		095-111	BELGIUM		0-808-100-10	ICELAND		998-001	NORWAY		800-180-11	U.K.		0-898-88-0011	U.S. AIRWAYS		800-121	PANAMA		800-111-108	
1800-881-011		PHILIPPINES		105-11	BULGARIA		00-1580-000	IRELAND		1-800-558-000	POLAND**		00-10-486-011	NIDOE EAST			AMERICA'S			PERU		800-111-101	
HONG KONG		00-1111	SAPAH		238-2872	CROATIA**		95-38-011	ITALY		178-1011	PORTUGAL		00-171-1-208	BAHRAIN		800-101	ARABIA**		001-800-200-1112	VENEZUELA		00-411-421
CHINA		00-1001	SARAWAK		958-0111-111	CZECH REPUBLIC		158-48-11	LIECHTENSTEIN		158-48-11	CYPRUS		800-101	ROMANIA		800-101	BOLIVIA		800-111-112			
INDIA		00-117	MALAYSIA		00-117	DENMARK		8001-8010	LITHUANIA		019-96	RUSSIA** (MOSCOW)		158-50-62	BRAZIL		800-101	ARGENTINA		800-101	AFRICA		
INDONESIA**		001-001-10	TAIWAN		0088-10288-0	FINLAND		8080-100-10	LUXEMBOURG		0-600-011	SLOVAK REP.		80-420-0011	ISRAEL		177-100-2727	CHILE		1-253-01-111	GAMBIA		00-111
JAPAN		0039-111	THAILAND		1112-410-1111	FRANCE		100-10011	MALTA		8088-588-118	SPAIN		800-99-0011	KUWAIT		800-288	COLOMBIA		988-111-0010	IVORY COAST		00-111-111
KOREA		008-11	EUROPE			GERMANY		00-100-111	NEDERLANDS		00-100-111	SWEDEN		00-100-111	KAZAKHSTAN		428-000-111	EL SALVADOR		800-101	KENYA		00-100-10
LAOS		00-111	GREECE		00-100-1111	HUNGARY		00-100-1111	MONACO		190-011	SWITZERLAND		158-10-11	SAUDI ARABIA		1-800-10	HONDURAS		800-101	SOUTH AFRICA		0-888-96-8128
MALAYSIA		001-001-11	AUSTRALIA		022-963-011							UNITED STATES		800-101-11	TURKEY		800-888-12277	INDONESIA		800-101-111			

[illegible]